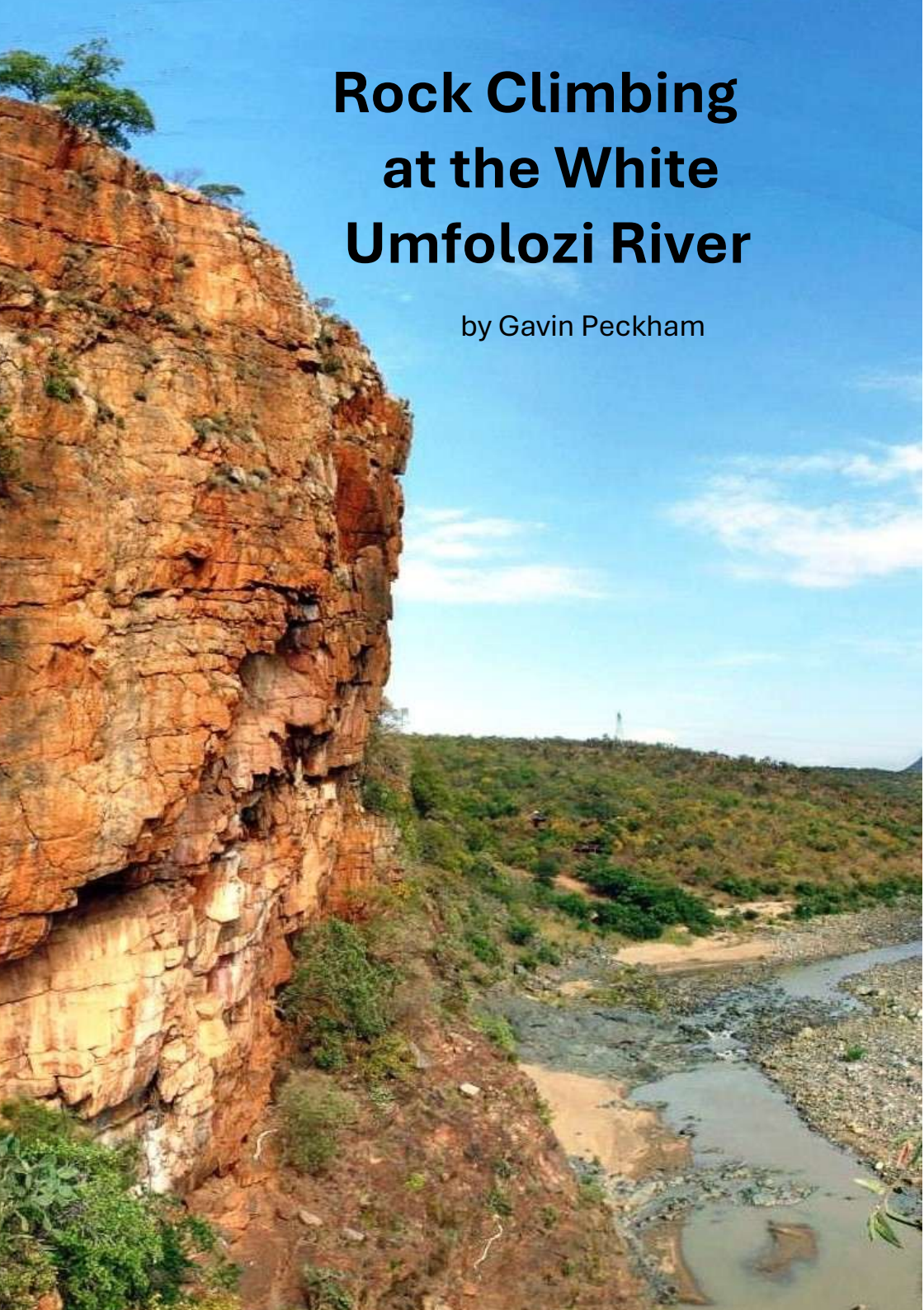
# Rock Climbing at the White Umfolozi River

by Gavin Peckham



# Quick Links


## Accident / Rescue Information

## Contents

## Booking Details

## Route Descriptions – List by Area

## Route Descriptions – Index by Grade

## Maps and Topos


**Basic Navigation**:

(1) To get to the RDs for a particular sector, click on "List by Area" then click on the sector you want.

(2) To find the RD for a particular route or grade, click on "Index by Grade" the click on the grade required in "Skip to Grade".

**Endorsement:** A nine page feature article in **SA Mountain Magazine** (Issue # 46; Sep / Nov 2013) referred to this venue as "**The Canyon of Dreams**" – and with very good reason. Just one visit and you'll fall in love with this magic spot for life.

**Author's Comment:** Readers often use the index and topos to locate a particular route and then simply head upward without further consideration. No problem if that's what suits you but actually reading the RDs and the introductory information for each section will put you in a better position to make the most of your experience. The information is not perfect but it is a lot better than nothing.

**Constructive comments, improvements and suggestions are most welcome.**

**Cover Photo:** The 'Day Tripper' Face.

# IMPORTANT RESCUE INFORMATION

Mountain Club of South Africa
KwaZulu-Natal Section
E-mail: kzn.mcsa.comm@gmail.com
Website: http://kzn.mcsa.org.za

**Non-Technical Emergencies**: If the patient is easily accessible and no ropes or helicopter are required, phone Netcare: 082911, ER: 24084124 or the government ambulance on 10177. Due to the remoteness of Klipkloof farm, please post someone at the gate on the main road to show the ambulance where to turn off.

**Technical Climbing Emergencies**: Please report the problem to any of the following Mountain Club Rescue Organisers directly:

Colin McCoy 0825467963 (convenor); Paul Roth 0763950119 (convenor); Carl Dreyer 0845279985; Jon Sargood 0826525202; Gavin Raubenheimer 0829905876 or Gustav Greffrath 0832369010

**For helicopter rescue quote: 28° 14' 00" S ; 31° 11' 36" E**
These are the co-ordinates of a suitable landing area overlooking the Warrior Wall. **Give warning that TWO sets of power lines cross the climbing area in a north / south direction.**

**When reporting an accident or fatality:**
**Dos:** (1) Stay in cell phone range. (2) Give your name and phone number. (3) Give the patient's name, age and gender. (4) Give information on the patient's symptoms or problems. (5) Give information on the prevailing weather conditions. (6) Administer First Aid to the best of your ability and training.

**Don'ts:** (1) Don't panic. (2) Don't make hasty decisions. Most emergencies are sorted out better after a little thought and planning. (3) In the case of a fatality, do not move the body or disturb the area until authorized to do so by the police or rescue team.

Downstream end of the Power Wall

# Rock Climbing

# at the

# White Umfolozi River

**4th Edition (pdf)**

**Updated July 2026**

**Gavin Peckham**

## Dedication

This guide is dedicated to the memory of my very good friend Rodney Owen. In my mid forties he dragged me whining and trembling up a rock face, thus saving me from a midlife crisis and opening up a whole new world of experiences to me.

Then we climbed and fished, climbed and argued and climbed some more. Can't thank you enough Piglet, you greatly enriched my life!

"A man would do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one could find fault."

Cardinal John Henry Newman.

Climbers on the top pitch of Day Tripper (17).
Photo: Anthony van Tonder

## DISCLAIMER

**Rock climbing is a potentially dangerous sport in which you can be seriously injured or even killed. You climb entirely at your own risk. Landowners, route bolters, belayers, etc. are entirely free of any legal responsibility for your welfare unless gross negligence on their part can be unconditionally proven.**

This guide is intended only for the use of experienced climbers who have the necessary expertise, experience and judgement to ensure their own safety. Please also read "Hazards" pp 22 – 26.

Whilst I have made a reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this guide, you make use of it entirely at your own risk.

**The information in this guide will obviously become outdated as time passes so climbers are personally responsible for ascertaining the situation and conditions prevailing at the time of their visit.**

## UPDATES

Updated information may (possibly) be posted periodically on the MCSA-KZN Web site that is currently hosted at: https://www.mcsakzn.co.za/ Failing that, contact me directly.

## NEW ROUTE INFORMATION

Suggestions or new route information may be sent to:
Gavin Peckham, 60 Bryn Heol, Bedwas, UK, CF83 8FA. WhatsApp: +44 79 4955 0221 **but rather e-mail me at:**
gavin.peckham@gmail.com

**COPYRIGHT** © Gavin Peckham : July 2026

This .pdf file may be copied, shared and hopefully, widely distributed **provided** that this is done with **absolutely** no financial benefit to the distributor.

# CONTENTS Page

## General


Disclaimer; Updates; New Route Information 7

Financial Support – for which I'm extremely grateful ! 12

General Information; Acknowledgements; Location 13

Map of the Main Access Roads 14

Map showing the General Layout of the Crags 15

Google Earth View of the Layout of the Crags 16

The Rock 17

The Routes 19

The Bolting 21

Seasonal Considerations; Rainfall; Flora and Fauna 23

The Hazards - **please read this section !** 25

The History of climbing at the White Umfolozi 30

Some Pioneers and Principle Route Openers 34

Access Conditions - **please read this section !** 38

## Accommodation Details 38

**North Bank** (No official access is currently permitted)

How to Get There 39

Map of the North Bank Farm Roads 40

**South Bank** 43

How to Get There 43

Booking Details and Costs 43

Map of the South Bank Farm Roads 44

Facilities on the South Bank 45

# Route Descriptions by Area — Page


## North Bank Crags – in downstream sequence

1. Grey Wall and the Buffalo Face – 12 routes 49
2. Red Wall and Mkhize's Buttress – 10 routes 55
3. Cinderella Slabs – 8 routes 59
4. Bits and Pieces Wall – 8 routes 63
5. The Promised Land – 13 routes 68
6. Friction Wall – 41 routes 74

## South Bank Crags – in downstream sequence

1. Bushy Buttress 91
   - 1A. Upper Tier – 22 routes 92
   - 1B. Lower Tier – 28 routes 98
2. Power Wall – 52 routes 104
   - 2A. Routes upstream of the Grass Ledge 107
   - 2B. From Access Ledge up to the Grass Ledge 112
   - 2C. From the Grass Ledge to the top of the crag 114
   - 2D. From the Access Ledge up to the Tree Ledge 118
   - 2E. From the Tree Ledge up to the top of the crag 120
   - 2F. Routes Downstream of the Tree Ledge 123
3. Primeval Wall – 8 routes 128
4. Casanova Cove – 3 "routes" 131
5. Gully Wall – 22 routes 132
6. Upper Warrior Wall – 42 routes 140
7. Lower Warrior Wall – 26 routes 153

**Index of Routes by Grade** **164**

# Maps, Sketches & Topos


**Main Roads** to the **White Umfolozi River** 14

**Farm Roads** to the old Camp Site on the **North Bank** 40

**Farm Roads** to the new Camp Site on the **South Bank** 44

**General Layout of the Crags – sketch** 15

**General Layout of the Crags – Google Earth** 16


## North Bank Crags – in downstream sequence


**1. The Grey Wall** – location 50

Buffalo Face – topo 52

**2. The Red Wall** – location 50

Mkhize's Buttress – location 50

**3. Cinderella Slabs** – location 50

Cinderella Slabs – Plan view and topo 60

**4. Bits & Pieces Wall** – location 15, 16

**5. Promised Land Area** – location 15, 16

Promised Land – topo 70

**6. Friction Wall** – location 15, 16

Friction Wall – plan view 75

Left-hand Side – topo 78

Central Area – topo 82

Right-hand Side – topo 88

## South Bank Crags – in downstream sequence


| | |
|---|---|
| **1. Bushy Buttress** – location | 15, 16, 92 |
| Upper and Lower Tiers – plan view | 94 |
| **2. Power Wall –** plan view | 106 |
| Grass Ledge – plan view | 106, 111 |
| Tree Ledge – plan view | 106, 121 |
| **3. Primeval Wall** – location | 15, 16, 104, 106 |
| Primeval Wall – topo | 129 |
| **4. Casanova Cove** – location | 129 |
| Casanova Cove – "topo" | 129 |
| **5. Gully Wall** – location | 15, 16, 106 |
| Gully Wall – Plan view | 133 |
| **6. Upper Warrior Wall** – location | 15, 16 |
| Left-hand Side **–** topo | 142 |
| Central Area **–** topo | 145 |
| Right-hand Side **–** topo | 148 |
| **7. Lower Warrior Wall** – location | 15, 16 |
| Left-hand Side **–** topo | 154 |
| Right-hand Side **–** topo | 160 |

## Financial Support

Without the financial support of several parties, the second, hard copy edition of this route guide would not have seen the light of day. That hard copy edition was sold out. **If anyone is happy to sponsor a further hard copy edition, please get in contact with me.** This updated pdf version with hypertext links to facilitate navigation, is free.

## Previous Advertisers

The MCSA-KZN – http://kzn.mcsa.org.za
RAM Mountaineering – http://www.rammountain.co.za
Mountain Mail Order – http://www.mountainmailorder.co.za
Bush and Bundu – http://www.bushandbundu.co.za
Outdoor Adventure GEAR – oag@telkomsa.net
Climb ZA – http://www.climbing.co.za

## Previous Subscribers

Jude Cobbing
Steve Cook
Gordon Jenkins
Thomas Mann
Colin McCoy
Jo Panrucker
Hallam Payne
Andrew Porter
Des Porter
Dylan Salt
Bruce Sobey
Dario Tedeschi
Bruce Tomalin
Grant Tunmer
Roy Turner
Jane Wiltshire

## Acknowledgements

Many thanks to: Anthony van Tonder for his photos, his enthusiasm and his long-standing friendship; to Roger Nattrass for the use of information from his superb book, "A Climber's Guide to Natal Rock"; to the various climbers who originally contributed to that book as well as to the many other climbers who have accompanied me into the "wilderness" especially Rodney Owen (who got it all started); Derek Marshall (the unstoppable juggernaut); Ivan van Cleef (the sky's the limit); Jonathon Wigley (let's just do it); Gavin Raubenheimer (we've climbed everywhere together); Richard Knott (on a wing and a prayer); Hallam Payne (he kept me going when I was ready to give up); Gerhard Greef (KZN's most "climber friendly" land-owner and a man who loves the venue as much as we do); and finally to my long-suffering family who have both endured and supported my escapades. As a small token of my appreciation, their "pet" names are scattered amongst the various routes. All photos were taken by me unless otherwise indicated.

# General Information

In a nutshell, what you will find at the White Umfolozi is a selection of about 290 routes, including about 140 sport routes and about 150 trad routes. These are generally easy to moderate grades and on superb rock. It is about a 3 hour drive from Durban and about 5 hours from Johannesburg. This is a real "out-of-Africa" climbing venue and as a bonus it is a wilderness area that will delight any nature lover.

## Location

The White Umfolozi crags are situated in the heart of Zululand about midway between Melmoth and Vryheid. More precisely, they are located on the banks of the White Umfolozi River about 2 km downstream from the bridge where the R34 crosses the White Umfolozi River – see map of the Main Roads on page 14.

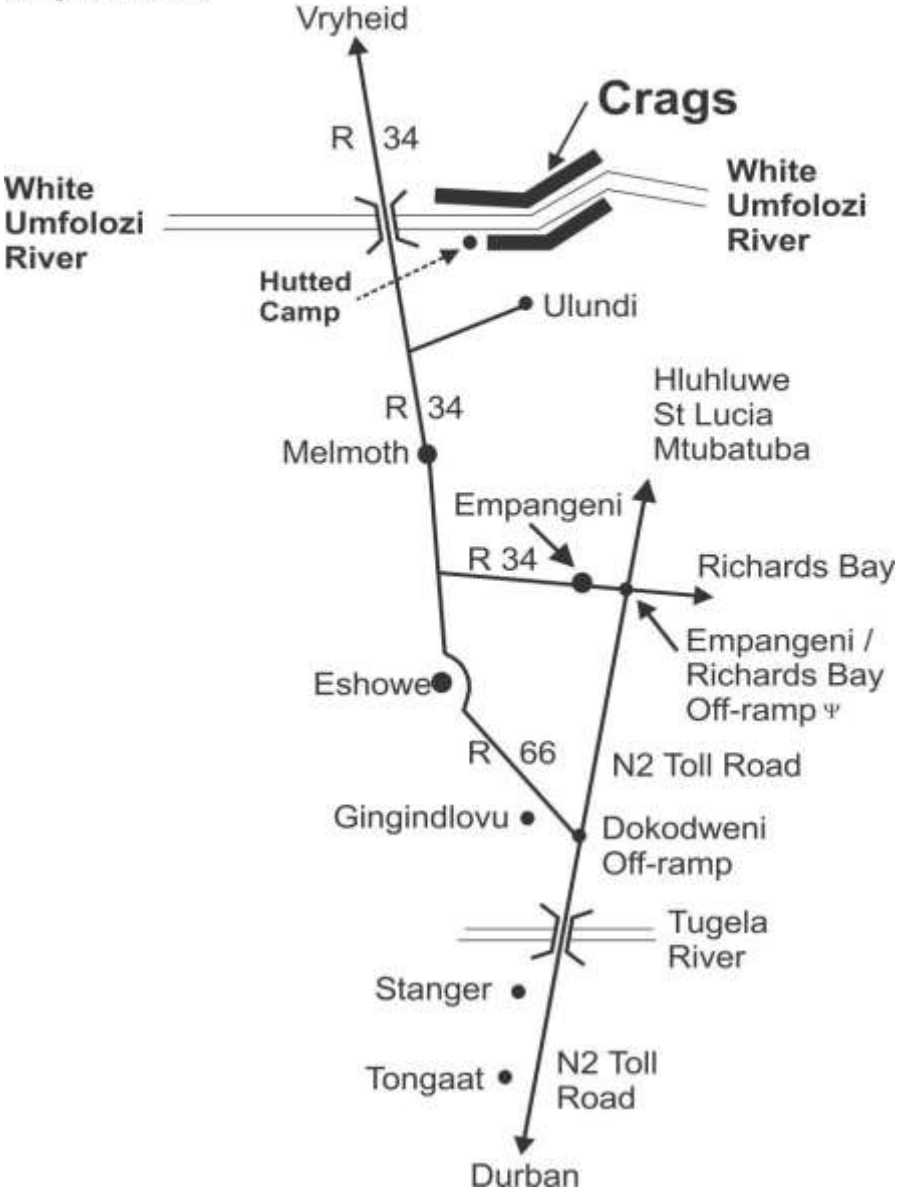
# White Umfolozi River

## Main Roads - How to get there

**(For final approach, see map of Farm Roads)**

Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved



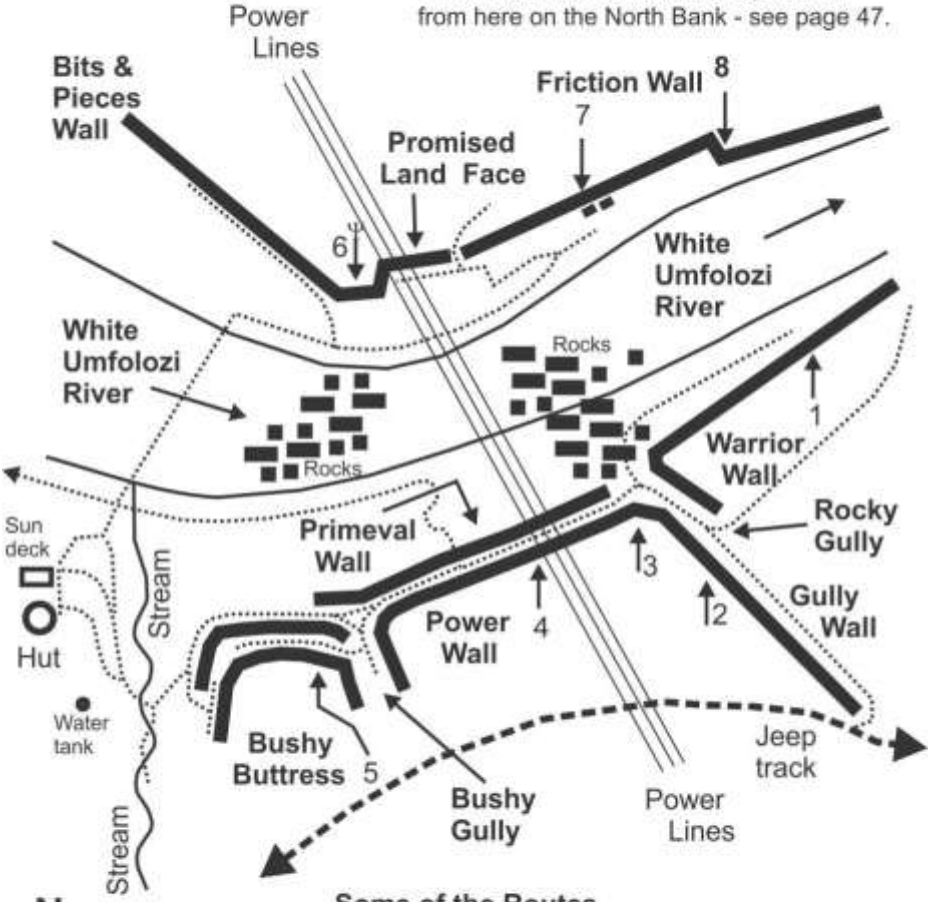
# White Umfolozi River

## General layout of the crags

Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved

**Note** : This sketch does not show the **Buffalo Face**, **Mkhize's Buttress**, or the **Cinderella Slabs**. These are upstream from here on the North Bank - see page 47.

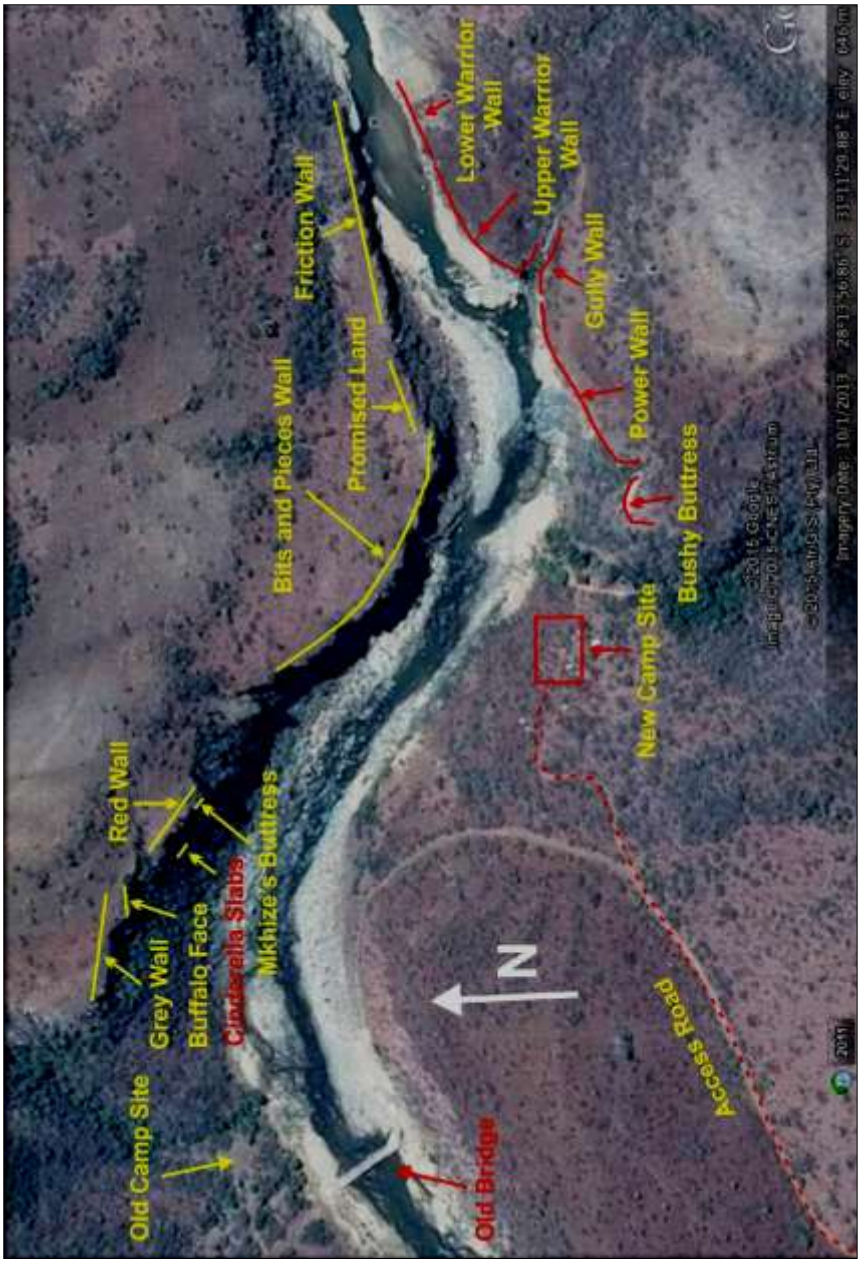



**Some of the Routes**

1. Sands of Time (16)
2. Mamba (13)
3. Daytripper (17)
4. Easy Access (11) & Skywalker (17)
5. Going Home (14)
6. The Lorax (17)
7. God's Great Banana Skin (24)
8. Zulu Blade (17)

The dotted lines are paths and access routes.

Or, if you prefer a more realistic overview pkfo Google Earth :



## The Rock

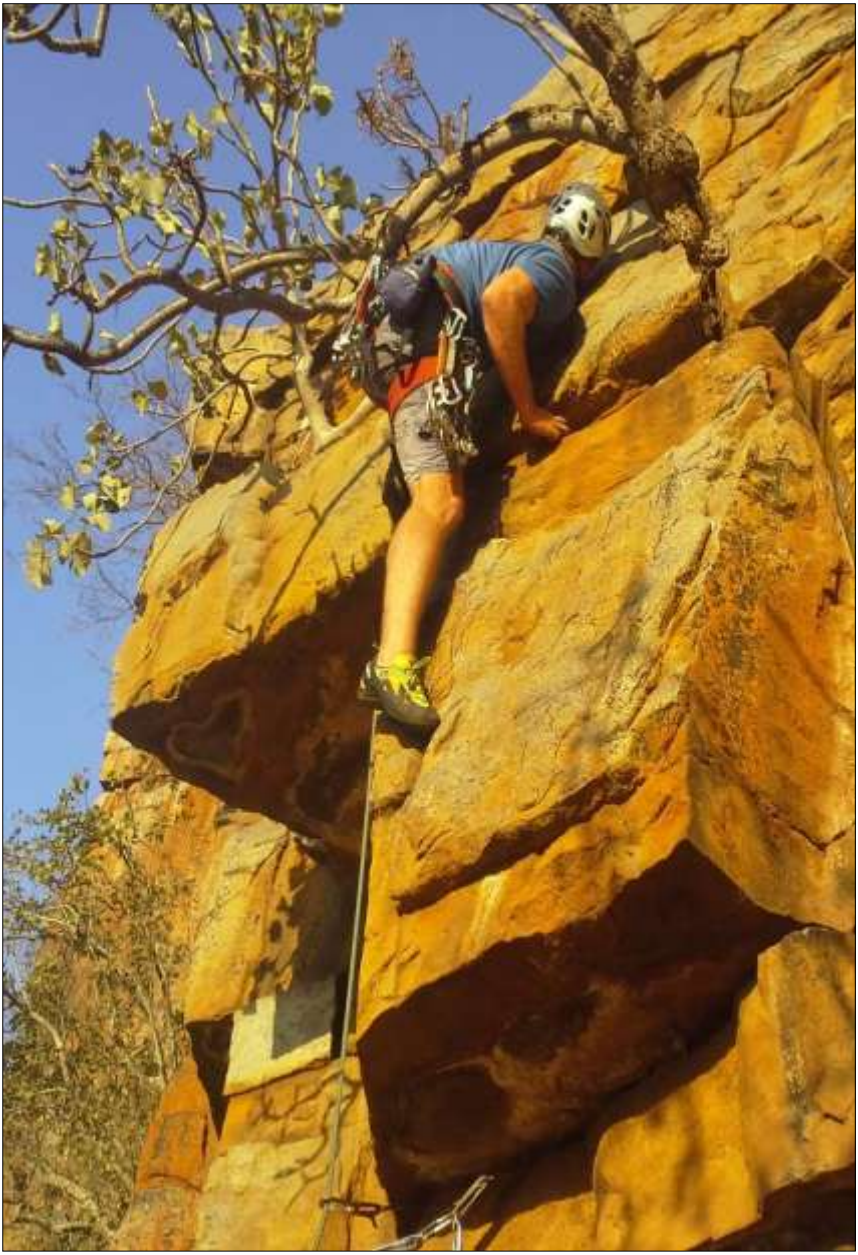
The crags have resulted from the river carving a gorge through the Pongola Quartzites down to the Archaean Kaapvaal Craton (3.2 billion years old). This ancient rock underlies the various sedimentary strata that constitute the bulk of the KwaZulu-Natal landmass.

Towards the downstream end of the crags, closer to river level, the rock is extremely compact with a smooth texture that, in some places, feels almost soapy. This is probably due to the polishing effects of floodwaters and wind-blown sand. Towards the upstream end of the crags, which are higher above river level, the rock has a rougher texture very similar to that of the Natal Group Sandstones.

In contrast to this, the uncharacteristic rock on the Lower Tier of the Bushy Buttress is very coarse grained and friable. In some places it is not dissimilar to the famous Peakstone Grit. Another sector with uncharacteristic rock for this venue is the Cinderella Slab which is a small outcrop of soft, on-balance talc-like rock that provides some easy but pleasant routes.

The quality of the rock is generally outstanding, especially towards the downstream end of the crags. As one moves upstream, the rock quality tends to decrease slightly and the amount of vegetation increases. Most of the rock is squeaky clean. However, some of the more "on-balance" routes tend to gather dirt and subsequently vegetation. Please do your bit by helping to keep them clean. When topping out on some climbs please be careful not to dislodge rocks on those below – see "Hazards" on page 25.

This is an area of great geological antiquity. Three-billion-year-old wave beds, algal mats, stromatolites and other geologically significant phenomena attract geologists from around the world. When you climb here you are surrounded by an amazing testament to the evolutionary forces of nature that have shaped our awesome planet over the course of countless millennia. Will "young earth creationists" kindly take their delusions elsewhere.



Hallam Payne opening Monkey People (16)

## The Routes

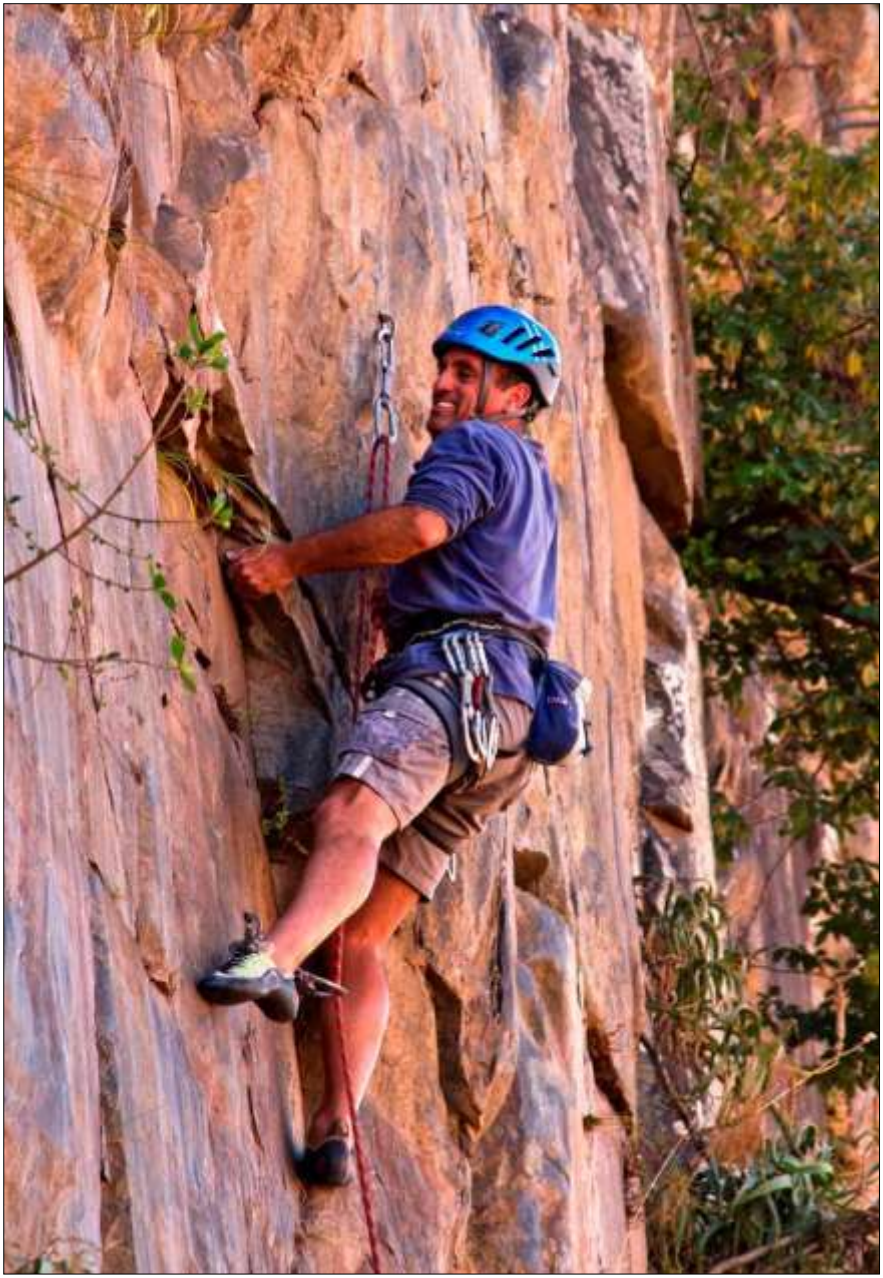
There are currently about 290 routes at the White Umolozi. These include about 140 sport routes and about 150 trad routes. The routes range in grade from 8 to 27 and in length from 5 m to 45 m. The venue caters mostly for beginners and for casual climbers as the average grade is about 17 with an abundance of short, easy routes. However, there is plenty of potential for new, hard lines if only the "hard men" would get off their backsides and make a positive contribution. In recent years Hallam Payne has been making a significant input in this regard.

There are about 55 sport routes on the north bank and about 85 on the south bank. Many of the better sport routes are on the Friction Wall. A majority of the trad routes are on the south bank but the north bank also has many worthwhile trad routes.

The starts of many trad routes have been marked with small, white arrows. There are good belay points at the top of most trad routes and the majority of these can be easily top-roped. There is plenty of potential for the development of new routes.

The RDs for routes opened in the early 1990s were taken from Roger Nattrass' excellent book, "A Climber's Guide to Natal Rock" which is now, sadly, out of print. The RDs for later routes have been obtained directly from the opening parties. Some of these RDs were written down several months or even years after the first ascent and may be somewhat vague. The grades and star ratings of many climbs are the subject of some debate. Opinions vary by as much as two full grades in either direction. Please send me your suggestions if you feel that some of the grades, star ratings or RDs are in serious need of modification.

The general layout of the crags and the location of some of the more popular routes are shown on pages 15 and 16.



Gerald Camp "gripped to the max".
Photo: Cesar de Carvalho

## The Bolting

There are currently about 140 fully equipped sport routes at the White Umfolozi. Of these, about 55 are on the north bank and about 85 are on the south bank. Many of the better sport routes are on the Friction Wall.

Bolting at the venue began in the early 1990s when Gerald Camp (2), Neil McQueen (1) and Roger Nattrass (1) opened some sport routes in the harder grades. The RDs include the number of **B**olts and **C**hains indicated as [x**B; C**]. Routes without an **[xB; C]** are trad routes which are occasionally supplemented by the odd bolt or chains.

A project to retro-bolt badly protected trad routes is on-going. Only under-protected routes will be considered for retro-bolting and then only with the permission of the first ascentionist. Donations towards this project have been received from the MCSA-KZN, Derek Marshall, Bruce Tomalin, Carl Fatti, Pierre Bill, Ian Cox, Martha Gurtz, Craig Pearman, Charles Hughes and Grant Tunmer. Apart from some climbers who have bolted their own routes, the rest of the bolting has been financed by yours truly.

Bolts placed on the original routes opened in the early 90s still seem as solid as ever but please inspect them carefully before committing your life to them!

**Bolters do their best to ensure your safety but at the end of the day you climb at your own risk and you are personally responsible for your own safety.**

Sunrise over the valley.  Photos: Cesar de Carvalho.

## Seasonal Considerations

Winter is the best time to climb at the White Umfolozi, as the valley may become uncomfortably hot in summer. However, climbing is feasible, even during the hot summer months, by starting early, taking a long midday siesta and then climbing again later. Also, the aspects of the various walls are such that there is always some climbing available in the shade even if you have to cross the river to get to it.

There are cool, shady, park-like areas along the base of the Gully Wall, the Promised Land area and the Cinderella Slabs. There are large sandbanks at the base of the Upper Warrior and Friction Walls. These may be pleasant on mild days, but you can really bake here in summer.

In winter the Friction Wall is permanently in the shade whilst the Warrior and Power Walls are permanently in the sun. In summer, the shady and sunny sides swap over during the day.

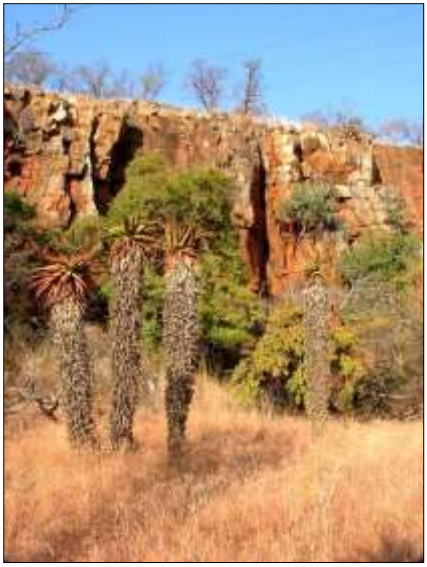
In summer the water level may be high enough to make river crossings somewhat tricky but in winter the river is generally crystal clear and much of it is little more than ankle deep.

## Rainfall

In winter the chances of rain at the White Umfolozi are close to zero. Even in summer the chances of rain are low. This part of the river is in an arid, rain-shadow area. Even when it is pouring with rain along the coast, it is usually dry in this valley.

## Flora and Fauna

Apart from its pure scenic splendour, the valley contains an amazing variety of plants, trees, animals and birds. Crowned and black eagles soar overhead whilst bald ibis frequent the crags. Dassies, porcupine, otters, water mongoose and a variety of antelope may also be seen. Leopard tracks have been positively identified on more than one occasion. Anglers may wish to pass some time in pursuit of catfish, carp, yellow-fish and tilapia. If you travel here during June or July you will be treated to the stunning sight of hundreds of aloes in full flower.



Aloes, Fish, Figs and Fliers !

## The Hazards

The following hazards are mentioned more as a disclaimer than because of any significant threat to your well-being. Some have been included only because of numerous enquiries from people who still think of Zululand as the "heart of darkest Africa". You will probably find that a majority of the so-called "hazards" exist at virtually any crag in the country. You are more likely to be involved in a car accident on your way to the crags, than to suffer serious harm from any of the hazards mentioned below. **Nevertheless, climbing is a dangerous activity and you are entirely responsible for your own safety. Please exercise all possible caution !**

- **Security:** The loyal old caretaker, Mr Mkhize, who guarded the old camp site on the north bank for many years, was retrenched and the hut, which we so fondly remember, has been plundered by the "previously disadvantaged". This site is under new ownership and no access is currently allowed.

At the camp on the south bank, a caretaker is employed to keep an eye on things. However, in the interests of safety do not leave anything of value lying around when you go to the crags. Lock it all up in one of the huts or the boot of your car. At the crags themselves you will be as safe as you are in your own home – a comforting thought in these "interesting times"! **We generally leave a gratuity (tip) with the security staff upon departure. R20 to R50 per person per visit is currently regarded as the norm depending on the length of your stay.**

- **Cell phone reception:** The whole R34 from Empangeni in the south to Vryheid in the north is well covered. The camp on the south bank has a reasonably strong signal in most places.

- **Crocodiles:** There are no crocodiles in the river. There was a crocodile farm several kilometres upstream of the Matatane camp site but this was closed many years ago. A 4 m crocodile was allegedly spotted under the bridge over the R34 in 2005. It has never been seen again and, if it actually existed, the poor reptile was probably shot by some over-zealous local.

Whatever you do, don't go anywhere near the front right-hand corner of the sun deck – several dangerous animals have been spotted **there**. This must rate as the most dangerous place at this magnificent venue!

- **Snakes: This is definitely snake country**. However, very few climbers have actually reported seeing snakes. Most of these were harmless – the snakes, not the climbers! A large python has been reported on the south bank. Mr Greef suggests that in the event of a python attack you should keep your arms held out at right angles to your body. This way the python can only swallow you as far as your armpits, at which stage you can reach down and strangle the beggar! More seriously, snakes almost always slither away unless you corner them or step on them. Keeping a sharp lookout, or letting your belay partner walk ahead of you, are probably the most practical precautions you can take.

- **Ticks:** Ticks are often a problem, especially during the autumn. It would be wise to check yourself carefully for ticks at regular intervals – or check your partner if (s)he is amenable to the process! Tick bites occasionally cause "tick bite fever". If you decline treatment for your first attack of tick bite fever, you will apparently develop a degree of immunity from subsequent infections – a sacrifice that is well worth making !

- **Gerald Camp, Derek Marshall, Anthony van Tonder and Hallam Payne:** I was unsure whether to include these deviants under Crocodiles, Snakes or Ticks but decided to give them a heading of their own. Climb some of their stunning routes and your adrenalin levels will tell you why they are listed here!

- **Malaria:** Surprisingly, mosquitoes are very seldom much of a problem here and malaria is essentially unknown in the area.

- **Bilharzia:** There is a very low possibility of contracting bilharzia if you swim or wade in the river. In this area the river flows rapidly over sand and stone and there are no stagnant reed-fringed pools that are the breeding ground of the bilharzia snail. Consequently, any bilharzia parasites that occur upstream are likely to be very scarce in this part of the river so the possibility of infection is extremely low.

**Bats, Bees and Hornets:** Some routes harbour small colonies of bats that may startle you if they fly out unexpectedly. You can usually hear or smell them before you see them! **Bees can kill you –** should you spot a hive please exercise great caution. The bees that were resident on 'Hummer', 'Bee Line' and 'Bee in the Bonnet' have all moved off and I am unaware of any currently active hives. Hornets are sometimes encountered on the routes. Whilst their stings are painful, they are easily dealt with if you have a long stick or a can of aerosol spray available. If your name is Charl Brummer, you simply swat the entire nest with an open hand before the poor little devils know what has hit them !

- **Access Ledge:** Access to routes on the Power Wall requires walking along the "Access Ledge" which runs across the full length of the Power Wall and about 30 m above river level. This ledge is generally broad and level, but there are a couple of narrow, sloping sections. There have been a few near disasters when people fool around, forgetting that there is a substantial drop of some 30 m to the river below. Please be especially careful not to knock any stones or debris over the edge as there may be climbers on the Primeval Wall which is directly below the Access ledge.

- **Loose Rock:** There are loose rocks and boulders at the top of several sectors. Please exercise caution when topping out – especially on the Bushy Buttress, the Primeval Wall, the Power Wall and on the Tree and Grass Ledges. We have removed some of this debris but if you come across any dangerous, loose rocks, please relocate them to a safer spot. Please extreme caution should it be necessary to trundle any boulders. A couple of routes have large blocks that seem to have very little supporting them. To date these blocks have defied our best efforts to dislodge them and they seem reasonably secure. **Nevertheless, it would be wise to exercise the usual caution and to test all holds before committing to them.** Although it is not regarded as "cool" these days, **wearing a helmet** makes a lot of sense.

- **Old Bolts:** The bolts on the original routes that were bolted in the early 1990s still seem as solid as ever. However, it may be better to top rope them or to check the bolts on ab before committing your life to them. Routes bolted in recent years have all been bolted with 70 mm x 10 mm stainless steel bolts which should still be in good condition for many years to come.

**As always, you are personally responsible for your own safety and should exercise caution with all protection points.**

- **River Noise:** When the river level is high, the noise of the rapids makes communication difficult on some climbs, especially on the Power Wall. Have some sort of signal system worked out with your belayer before you start climbing.

- **Sunburn:** If you are fair-skinned, a hat and sunscreen are advised. "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun."

- **Sand:** There are large sandbars at the base of the Friction and Upper Warrior Walls. When climbing in these areas a towel or rope mat is useful to keep your ropes out of the sand.

- **Nettle Trees:** Watch out for nettle trees, especially in the vicinity of the Bushy Buttress, Access Ledge and the Power Wall. Most people will experience no more than a temporary irritation, but people with sensitive skin may develop a nasty rash.

- **Finally:** Beware of hangovers after a night of celebrating yet another great day's climbing at this absolutely awesome venue !

One of my favourite quotes is from a climber who identifies himself, or possibly herself, only as "Mad Dog". This climber observed, somewhat philosophically I presume, that:

**I climb as hard as anyone on earth.**
**I just do it on easier routes !**

# A History of Climbing at the White Umfolozi River

For those who might be interested, the origins of climbing at the White Umfolozi are described below. The information has been obtained mainly from Neil McQueen and Craig Pearman with contributions from Ron Uken and Gerald Camp.

Craig Pearman writes that, "In the late 1980s and early 1990s the Mountain Club at the University of Natal in Durban was particularly active and sport climbing was taking off with many new venues to explore. Places like Shongweni were inaccessible due to political troubles and we were looking further afield for new crags. Around the country the Capey's had just started developing Montague and the Vaalies had found Waterval Boven, so there was a magic atmosphere of "go forth and bolt". The main motivator for exploring the White Umfolozi was Craig Robertson who was studying chemical engineering at Durban Varsity."

Craig lived at Vryheid in northern Natal and regularly drove between Vryheid and Durban via Eshowe, along the R34. During these trips he noticed the crags that are clearly visible on either side of the bridge over the White Umfolozi River. Neil McQueen had also seen these crags on trips to Nelspruit and the two of them decided to organise an exploratory trip. "Murphy" intervened and Neil was unable to attend the initial outing but Craig and a few friends went and camped at the Matatane campsite on the banks of a small tributary that joins the White Umfolozi River just upstream of the bridge over the R34. They explored this tributary and found a superb plunge pool in a deep bowl of orange rock just upstream of the junction with the main river. Here they spent time making long leaps into deep water and bouldering.

On a subsequent trip, Andrew Russell-Boulton bolted a route (The Plunge) on the wall next to the waterfall – see page 193 in Roger Nattrass' guide to "Natal Rock". Gerald Camp relates that, "We liked the place – impressive and full of adventure. We opened a 22 (whose name escapes me) – a bolted line next to the pool (actually

'The Plunge', 24). We sunbathed and did a really good, moderately high jump from a cliff into the pool. Had some other fun too. Dug a hole about 30 cm deep in the river bed, inserted a "Gaz" cooker, fired it up and stuck a new cylinder on top. Kaboom – but we saw nothing. Next morning we found the cylinder with its bottom blasted out about 50 m behind where we had been watching."

Meanwhile, Neil McQueen and Craig Robertson agreed that the real potential of the area lay in the higher crags that were visible downstream of the bridge and the two of them organised a trip to explore this area. This time it was Craig who was unable to go, but word had started to spread and Neil was easily able to recruit Gerald Camp to join him. They stayed at the Matatane camp site (the only option in those days) and accessed the crags by driving along the farm roads on the north bank and then along the railway line until they estimated they were in the vicinity of the crags. At this point they parked their car, walked down the hill, reached the top of the Friction Wall and saw the Warrior Wall on the far side of the river in all its splendour. This set the tone for an exciting weekend.

Neil McQueen writes, "We were stoked! We attacked the Warrior Wall since it looked sooooo good. Gerald opened 'Batman' (17) and 'Mfecane' (23) as the first routes. I opened 'Dingane's Manoeuvres' (18) on the same day. The river was low and clear. We swam, climbed, swam, lunched at the 'Lunch Blocks' and then climbed again."

Later that Saturday Neil spotted and attempted 'Shaka' (23) but was unable to lead it at first. The next day (Sunday) they turned their attention to the Frab and Sliction Wall (see footnote) where Neil opened the impressive line 'Psychobabble Rap' (20).

Neil continues, "Richard Knott pitched up for the day and promptly opened the classic 'Sands of Time' (16). We also tackled the huge, left-tending roof on the Warrior Wall but ended in abbing off a hex since it was way too hard for us mortals. To lead 'Shaka' was the

weekend's crowning hope, but it seemed to elude me. The thought of another three hour trip each way, with exams looming, provided renewed motivation and the route went at last, ending a two day spree of exploring and route opening on a high! Further trips were limited due to student budgets and study commitments, however, about a year later we managed two trips with bigger groups and so 'Dairy Dilemma'; 'Hunted Child'; 'The Works'; 'Peaceful Protest' and 'Purple People Eater', amongst others, went up. We all loved how hard, beautiful and clean the rock is. It's amazing that the place had not been seen and climbed before."

After this initial phase climbing at the White Umfolozi River came to a standstill. The reasons are not entirely clear. Craig Pearman recalls that the farm changed hands and that the new owner was less "climber friendly" than the original owner. He also noted another factor that possibly contributed to the slump was the fact that that the pioneer route openers were students who graduated and moved away from the area at more or less the same time.

Anyway, after 4 or 5 years in the doldrums the venue was "re-discovered" in the late 1990s when Rodney Owen encouraged me (Gavin Peckham) to take up climbing in my old age. The two of us adopted this as our local crag. Many new routes were opened and the number of climbers visiting this stunning venue has increased steadily – long may it last.

**Foot notes:**

1. Craig Pearman mentions that he has dim recollections of finding some old pegs in the rock above the bridge during their first visits. If anyone can throw more light on this I'd be very pleased to hear from you.

2. It will be noticed that Roger Nattrass' definitive book "A Climber's Guide to Natal Rock" refers to the "Kua Wall". This meaningless name, of uncertain pronunciation, was apparently due to the illegible handwriting of a well-known Natal climber (GC). I later discovered that the original name was apparently

the KVA Wall, where KVA stands for kilovolt amp. This unit of electrical power is equivalent to the kilowatt and presumably derives from the power lines which cross the river directly over this wall. Nowadays, most climbers simply refer to this wall as the Power Wall.

The Frab and Sliction Wall also suffered a name change. It would appear that the original spoonerism proved too much of a tongue twister and the wall is now generally known simply as the Friction Wall – at least the essence of the original names has been preserved.

**3.** Finally, as a matter of interest, the old, low-level bridge near the old camp site on the north bank used to carry the main Eshowe – Vryheid road (R34) until the present road and bridge were built in about 1952. The last 2 km of the track on either side of this old bridge were a part of the old, untarred R34 – imagine trying to get up those hills in the cars of the time, especially after rain!

"Umfolozi Reflections". Photo: Anthony van Tonder

## Some of the Pioneers and Principal Route Openers

Sadly, I have been unable to obtain photos of some "pioneers", however, a "Rogues' Gallery" of the principal villains follows.

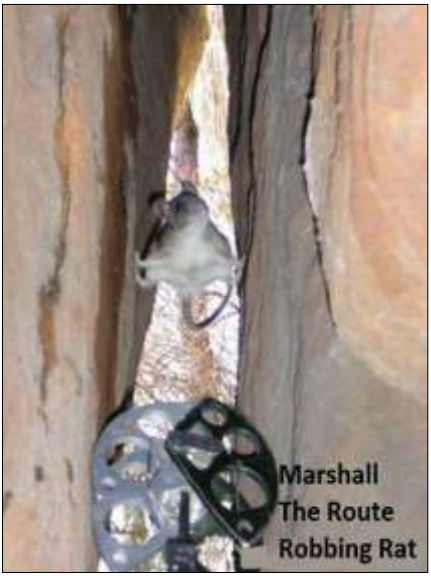
Neil McQueen

Craig Pearman

Gerald Camp – what a ghastly metamorphosis !

Eric Penman (RIP)

Jonathon Wigley




Derek Marshall – the REAL Marshall is on the right !

Gavin Peckham

Anthony van Tonder

Rodney Owen (RIP)

Richard Knott

Gavin Raubenheimer

Hallam Payne

Left: Gerhard Greef, for almost two decades, one of KZN's most "climber-friendly" land owners !

I have no more photos of old-timers for this space, so let me slip in this request:

**Gardening:** When planning a trip here please bring along a pair of secateurs, a scratcher and a brush and use them to clean routes and paths as you go. I think it is a sin for anything to photosynthesise within a metre or so, on either side of any route, so when you lower off please do any necessary cleaning. **It is no use ripping off blades of grass – they grow again in no time. Grasp them firmly and wriggle until you can get them out by the roots.** Please do the job properly by using a scratcher to dig out all the roots and earth remaining in the cracks. This will greatly retard any future regrowth. If each person makes an effort then the quality of the climbing will be improved for all.

## Access Conditions

The crags on the north and south banks are now in the hands of separate landowners. Climbers no longer have unconditional access to both sides of the river.

**South Bank:** At the time of writing all visitors and climbers who have booked and paid are welcome on the south bank.

**North Bank:** After initially refusing all access and then imposing stringent access conditions, the evidence of many years is that the current owner of the north bank appears to exercise no control over climbing on the north bank crags when these are accessed from the south bank. As a result, climbers have (illegally) resumed climbing on the north bank and have been doing so for many years with no intervention from the landowner. We thus have the strange situation in which climbing is officially banned on the north bank yet, in practise, climbers have been using the crags freely for many years without any sign whatsoever of the presence or objection of the landowner. You can make up your own mind.

**However, should you ever be confronted about your presence on the north bank, please remember that you have no right to be there, apologise profusely and immediately retreat back to the south bank.**

**General:** To facilitate good relations with the landowner (south bank) please be on your best behaviour; close gates, leave no litter, leave the venue clean and tidy, pay promptly, etc, and take every opportunity to make it clear to the owners how much we, as climbers, appreciate having access to this superb venue.

**Remember, rock climbing is a potentially dangerous sport. You climb entirely at your own risk. Landowners, bolters, belayers, etc. are entirely free of any legal responsibility for your welfare unless gross negligence on their part can be unconditionally proven.**

# Accommodation Details

## North Bank Accommodation

**No accommodation or road access is currently allowed on the North Bank. The following information is only included in case this campsite becomes available again in the future.**

This is the place where we traditionally camped in the past. Sadly, there are no longer any facilities available here – the "previously disadvantaged" have plundered everything.

**How To Get There** – see map on page 40.
The turn off from the R34 to the camp site on the north bank is located about 60 km north of Melmoth and about 70 km south of Vryheid at a point 3,7 km north of the bridge over the White Umfolozi River. The turn off is currently marked by a road sign: "Nhlazatshe Sta 2". After turning off the R34, follow the gravel road down into a dip, across a small bridge and then up the hill on the other side. After 1,4 km from the R34, as the road swings to the left, take a turn off to the right onto another gravel road which has a "Private Road" sign. Follow this road down through a dip, across another small bridge and up the other side. After 1,0 km, as the road swings to the left, take the vague track that turns off to the right – basically you just keep going straight on where the larger road swings to the left.

At this turn off there is an abandoned farm house slightly ahead of you and on your left as well as a large V-shaped power pylon more or less directly ahead. Go through a gate and then follow the rough track for about 2 km as it winds down into the valley to the camp site next to the river. The road to the camp site turns off sharply to the left about 100 m before you get to an old, low-level bridge across the river.

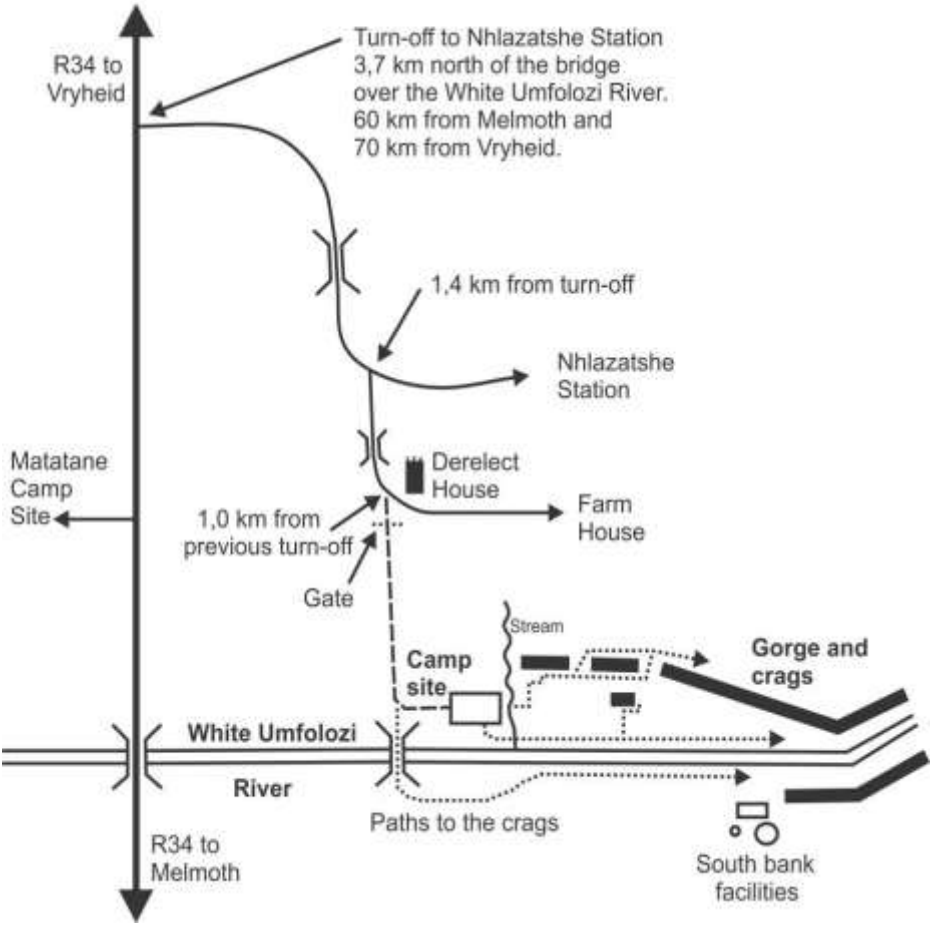
# White Umfolozi River

## Farm Roads : How to get to the campsite on the North Bank

Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved

**Note: All access from the north bank is currently banned.**



The old bridge, the old camp site and the old hut.

The old hut on the North Bank before it was plundered for building materials by the "previously disadvantaged". It is now merely a ruin. Photos: Anthony van Tonder

The old north bank hut – aaah, the memories !

"Groen is die land van Natal"
A view down the valley looking onto the Power Wall.
Photos: Michelle Hutchinson

## South Bank Accommodation

**Please Note:** The information given below will most certainly change with time. Please contact the land owner (see contact details below) for the latest information.

**How to Get There** – see map on page 44.
The turn off from the R34 to the camp site on the south bank is located about 55 km north of Melmoth and about 75 km south of Vryheid at a point 1,0 km south of the bridge over the White Umfolozi River. If you are driving up from the south, then the turn off is about 0,3 km after you pass under the power lines as you drive down the hill towards the bridge. The turn off has a large green gate set back about 20 m from the main road. A large sign, "Klip Kloof" is attached to the gate

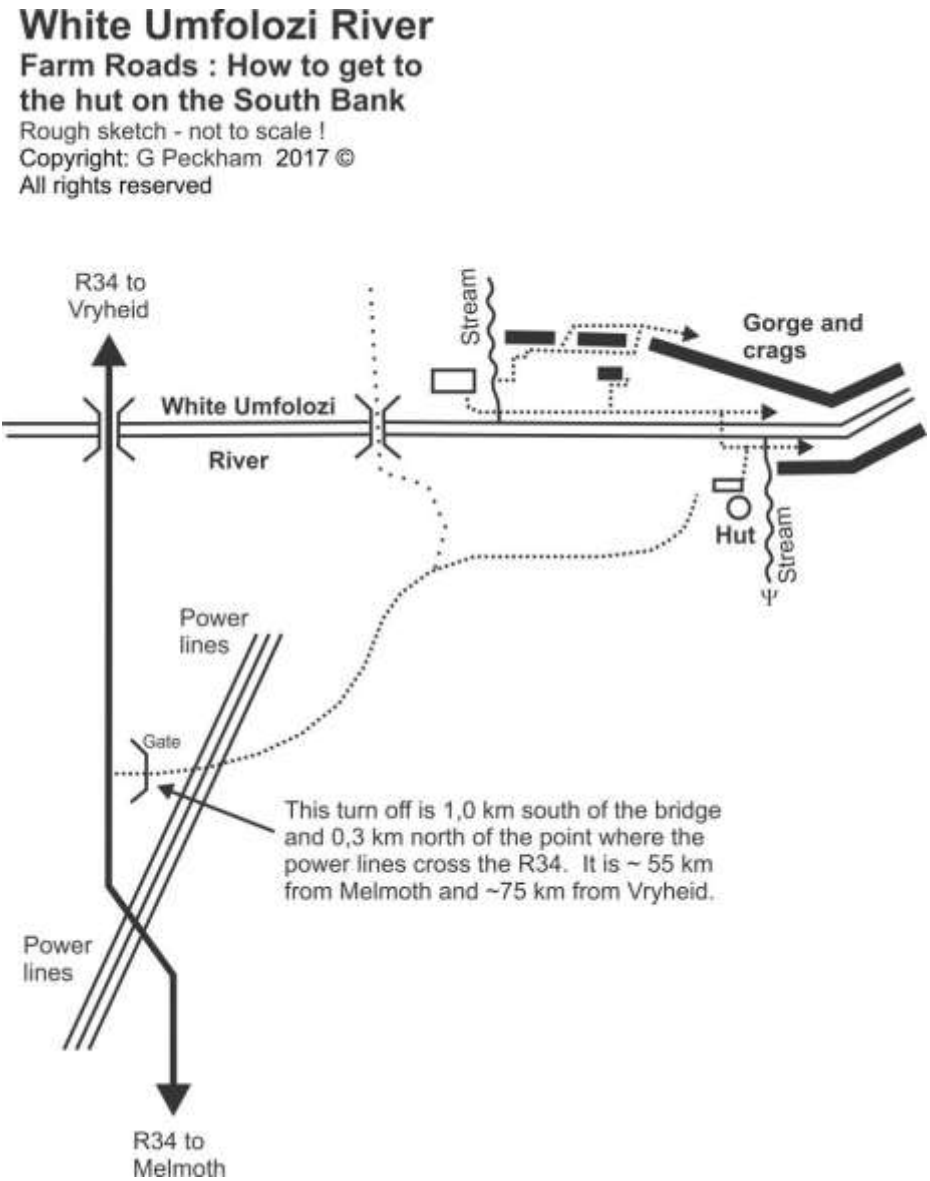
Provided you have made the necessary prior arrangements you will either have the keys, or the gate will be unlocked. Follow the track down towards the river until you reach the hut. Do not take the very vague track that runs off to the left at one point.

There is a parking terrace adjacent to the huts. However, it may be better to park on the small terrace about 30 m before you get to the huts because on the way out, normal cars may experience some difficulty in negotiating the steep slope between the two terraces. SUVs, 4x4s, company cars, etc. will manage easily.

**South Bank Booking Details**
Ownership of this property has passed from Andre Harris to Gerhard Greef and then, briefly, to the Lingenfelder family. It is currently owned by **Mr & Mrs Sibiya** (Themba & Zanele) who may be contacted on +27 83 654 8382 or +27 76 037 3096 to arrange booking. Alternatively contact Zanele via Whatsapp on +27 72 112 8829. Failure to book **in advance** will find you standing in front of a large, locked gate in the heart of darkest Africa.

**South Bank Costs**

Current **pppn** fees are: camping R70 and R180 for the small huts. Obviously these charges are subject to change so please check when booking.



**South Bank Facilities**

Please see the "Update" at the bottom of this page.

The magnificent thatched huts that we were so fond of were burned to the ground by "the previously disadvantaged" in 2008. In an attempt to prevent a recurrence of this atrocity, Mr Greef rebuilt the huts with decidedly less attractive corrugated iron roofs. Currently a 4-bed stone hut, a 2-bed stone hut and two, 2-bed wooden huts are available. Tents can be pitched on the sun deck or on any of the many tent sites that have been established.

Apart from this, the current facilities include an ablution block with 2 flushing toilets and 2 showers with hot water for men and a separate block with 3 toilets and 3 showers for ladies. There is a separate barbeque area, a large, covered dining area and a superb sun-deck with a spectacular view out over the crags. In the dining area there is a kitchenette with cupboards, a two-plate gas cooker, and a small gas fridge / freezer unit.

All water is supplied from an adjacent stream. No one has died from drinking this water and it is obviously OK when boiled but it is definitely preferable to bring your own drinking water.

Dead wood in the vicinity of the hut has become scarce. Please do not use up all the available wood to keep bonfires burning.

**If you plan to braai please bring your own wood, charcoal or gas cookers.**

A list of birds that have been seen in the area is pinned to the board in the larger hut. Bird watchers are encouraged to add any new sightings to this list.

**Update:** July 2026. Apparently the facilities listed above have not been maintained and are in a serious state of disrepair. The booking procedure remains the same as that outlined on page 43, but please be prepared to be almost entirely self-sufficient.
A sad sign of the times.

The original huts on the South Bank viewed from the top of the Bushy Buttress, looking upstream. Notice how Mr Greef took great care to ensure that they blend into the bush.

The original, stunningly beautiful hut that was torched by the "previously disadvantaged". Photo: Cesar de Carvalho.

The way it was.  Due to the "interesting times" in which we live, this too has passed.  Photos: Cesar de Carvalho.

The view from the original loo – the loo with a view!

Aloe, river and the Warrior Wall.  Photo: Anthony van Tonder

# ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

## NORTH BANK – in downstream sequence

**Please remember that, technically speaking, we are not currently allowed to climb on the North Bank crags.**

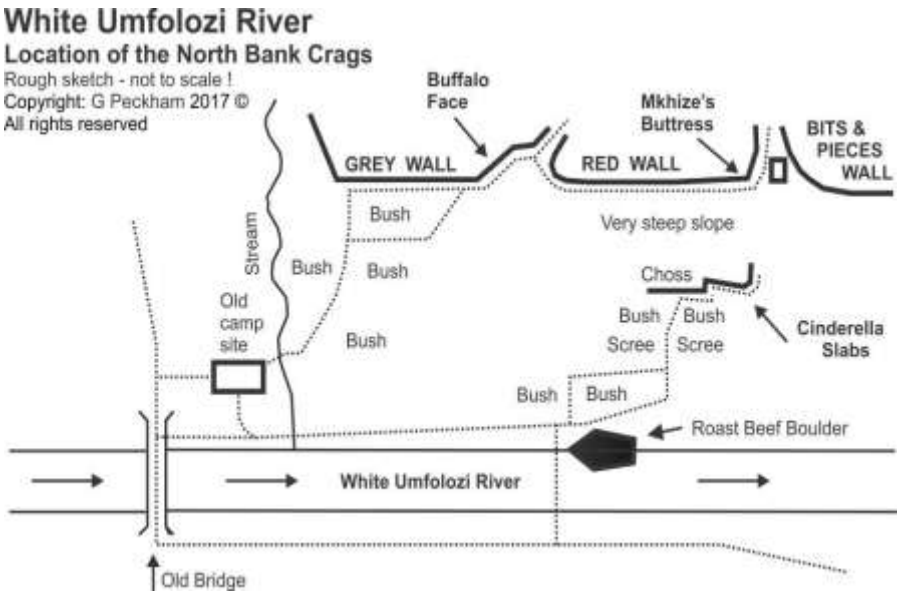
### 1. THE GREY WALL – see the sketch on page 50.

The Grey Wall is the highly visible wall closest to the derelict camp site on the north bank. This wall lies at the top of a steep and very bushy slope leading up from the river. It is mainly on-balance but is very vegetated. Several unremarkable and unrecorded routes have been climbed here by Gavin Peckham both with and without the assistance of various gullible climbing partners. There is plenty of potential for new routes – bring a full range of gardening tools along!

Near the right-hand end of this messy wall there is a superb face that previous climbers had walked past without realising its potential until Derek Marshall spotted the wall and could not believe that local climbers had left it totally unscathed. He bolted the wall to give us the superb **Buffalo Face**.

Start at the gate in the fence on the downstream side of the derelict camp site on the North Bank. A path leads through a donga. As you exit the donga there is a cairn on the left marking the start of the path up to the crag. The path winds up the hill through the bush and eventually reaches the base of the Grey Wall. Unfortunately, the path is usually overgrown due to lack of use. After reaching the base of the crag the path traverses to the right along the base of the wall through bush and scree. After traversing for about 100 m you scramble up over large blocks and then down to a comfortable cave that undercuts the wall and marks the start of the Buffalo Face.

The first route on the Grey Wall is a trad line, ' Icons of Self Indulgence' which runs up a superb crack. It is located just before you reach the Buffalo Face itself. Thereafter, the routes on the Buffalo Face are listed from left to right in the sequence you will encounter them as you walk in.




If you carry on walking to the right, past the Buffalo Face, you reach a gentle gully that slopes up to the right and gives easy access to the top of the crags.  By heading slightly downhill near the gully area, you can cross a fairly steep slope and reach a path and fairly exposed ledge that leads to a comfortable path along the base of the Red Wall.

Tennyson: "I chatter over stony ways, in little sharps and trebles."

**1. Icons Of Self Indulgence (20) ****** 25 m
FA: Derek Marshall and Craig Bester (25 December 2003)

Start about 5 m to the left of the large overhang that undercuts the Buffalo Face. Climb the perfect hand crack past a small roof. Climb a short open book and pull through another small roof. Climb easily to the top. Find a belay or walk off to the right down the gully between the Buffalo Face and the Red Wall.

Derek Marshall, you **Rotten Route Robbing Rat**, this was the **one** route I asked you to leave for me – didn't you see the "IP" scratched on the rock? 'Self Indulgence' is a **very** appropriate name! Please get in touch with me for Derek's contact details should you wish to send him some **rat poison !** ☺

## The Buffalo Face – see topo on page 52.

**2. Savannah (23) [12B; C] ****** 20 m
FA: Derek Marshall; Craig Bester (25 December 2003)

After the same start as 'The Terrible Ones', move left and then up to a small, stepped roof. Pass this on the left and continue straight up to the chains.

**3. The Terrible Ones (22) [12B; C] ****** 20 m
FA: Derek Marshall (27 December 2003)

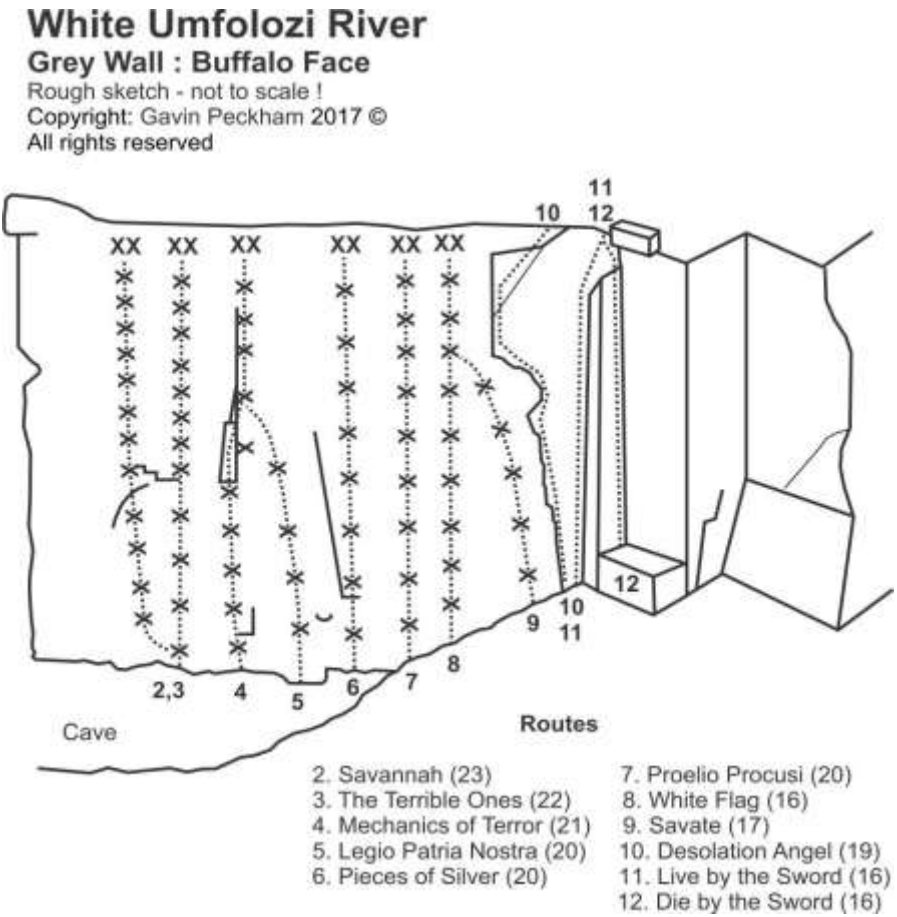
Make a gorilla start on jugs and then climb straight up, passing just to the right of a small, stepped roof. From here continue straight up to the chains. This is a fairly sustained line.

**4. Mechanics Of Terror (21) [9B; C] ****** 20 m
FA: Derek Marshall (17 December 2003)

After tricky moves to gain the face, fire straight up the bolt line. Alternatively, start up the next route, then step across to the left.

**5. Legio Patria Nostra (20) [8B; C] ****** 19 m
FA: Derek Marshall (17 December 2003)

Start about 3 m to the right of the previous route. Start straight up then tend left and join the previous line about two thirds of the way up. From here, follow the previous line to the chains.




**6. Pieces Of Silver (20) [8B; C] ****** 19 m
FA: Derek Marshall (23 December 2003)

Start at the right-hand extremity of the cave – where the cave roof meets the rising ground. Fire straight up the line of bolts.

**7. Proelio Procusi (20) [9B; C] ****** 20 m
FA: Derek Marshall (23 December 2003)

Start 1,5 m to the right of 'Pieces of Silver'. Fire straight up the line of bolts to the top. (For those who did not do Latin at school, the name means 'Forged in Battle' and 'Legion Patria Nostra', route # 4, means 'The Legion is Our Fatherland')

An oblique view of the Buffalo Face.  Photo: Grant Tunmer

**8. White Flag (16) [9B; C] ****** 18 m
FA: Craig Bester  (27 December 2003)

Start 4 m to the left of the 'Desolation Angel' off-width and climb straight up to the chains.

**9. Savate (17) [8B; C] ***** 16 m
FA: Derek Marshall  (27 December 2003)

Start 2 m to the left of the 'Desolation Angel' off-width.  Climb up tending slightly left.  After the 5th bolt this line merges with 'White Flag' and uses the last 3 bolts and chains on 'White Flag'.

**10. Desolation Angel (19) ****** 25 m
FA: Derek Marshall; Tim Loft (07 July 2003)

At the far right-hand side of the Buffalo Face there is an awesome off-width. Climb this to under the roof. Break out slightly to the right. A #6 Cam is very useful – i.e. essential!

**11. Live By The Sword (16) ***** 18 m
FA: Derek Marshall; Craig Bester (23 December 2003)

Just to the right of the 'Desolation Angel' off-width there are two open books. Climb the left-hand open book.

**12. Die By The Sword (16) ***** 18 m
FA: Derek Marshall; Craig Bester (23 December 2003)

Climb the right-hand open book.

---

"Water Sculpted Rocks." Photo: Anthony van Tonder

## 2. THE RED WALL – location: see the sketch on page 50.

The Red Wall is just downstream of the Grey Wall and is separated from it by an easy gully that slopes up to the right. The Red Wall has several steep, clean faces but most of the base of the wall is significantly undercut. Below the Red Wall there is a precipitous drop down to the river through dense bush, so the best approach is to follow the path up through the bush to the Grey Wall, across the base of this wall and then across the gully between the Grey and Red Walls. From the base of the gully head diagonally down across a steep slope to reach the start of a narrow ledge with an exposed 'step-across' that leads to a good path along the base of the Red Wall. Mkhize's Buttress is at the downstream end of the Red Wall where the wall turns away from the river. From this point it is possible to scramble up another gully to the top of the crag. There is scope for many stunning new routes in this area.

The following routes are listed from left to right.

**1. Caroline The Snake (13) **** 15 m
FA: Derek Marshall; Craig Bester (22 December 2003)

This line is located about 5 m to the right of the grassy gully that separates the Grey Wall from the Red Wall. Climb the easy ramp / groove to gain an open book and then up a small buttress to top out.

**2. The Encourager (17) **** 18 m
FA: Derek Marshall; Craig Bester (22 December 2003)

Start 1 m to the right of a large dead tree. Climb the ramp. Continue up to the top of the small free-stander.

**3. Hand Break Problem (17) **** 13 m
FA: Derek Marshall; Craig Bester (25 December 2003)
Start 2,5 m to the right of the step-over. Climb the finger crack open book. Move slightly right to a great ab tree.

## **Mkhize's Buttress** – see sketch on page 50.

This is the buttress that forms the most downstream end of the Red Wall where it turns away from the river. The routes are **totally stunning** and are relatively easy once you have aided through the roof that undercuts the face. **A 60 m rope is advised**, but a 50 m rope can be used if you are careful.

**Communal Access:** To access these excellent routes, walk along the base of the Red Wall to the far end. Look for a large block perched on a ledge under the undercut face. Climb up onto the block and then aid up the short (4 m) bolt-ladder through the roof to reach a small but comfortable stance on the lip of the roof. The following routes all fan out from this stance.

**4. Impundula (17, 17) [8B; C] : [10B; C] ******
FA: Derek Marshall (27 December 2003)

Pitch 1. (16 m) Aid the first 3 bolts to the stance on the lip of the roof. About 7 m up traverse left to chains and a comfy stance.
Pitch 2. (22 m) Follow the bolts to the left of a blunt arête.

**5. Servant King (17) [12B; C] ****** 30 m
FA: Derek Marshall (27 December 2003)

Aid the first 3 bolts to the stance on the lip of the roof. About 7 m up move left and up. Follow the bolts up an easy blunt arête.

**6. Victim Of Fate (17) [12B; C] ***** 21 m
FA: Derek Marshall (27 December 2003)

Aid the first 3 bolts to the stance on the lip of the roof. About 7 m up move left and up into a wide open book. Follow this up to the chains.

**7. Green Hills Of Zululand (17) [13B; C] ****** 29 m
FA: Derek Marshall (21 December 2003)

Aid the first 3 bolts to the stance on the lip of the roof. Follow the line of bolts up the obvious recess.

**8. Cackles Of Fiendish Laughter (19) [14B; C] ****** 29 m
FA: Derek Marshall (21 December 2003)

Aid the first 3 bolts to the stance on the lip of the roof. From the stance move immediately to the right and then up (crux) to gain the line of bolts on the arête.

The Red Wall. Mkhize's Buttress is on the far right.
Photo: Grant Tunmer

The following two routes are around the corner to the right of Mkhize's Buttress, where the Red Wall turns sharply away from the river and runs up, with diminishing height, to the top of the crags. An easy, vegetated gully / ramp follows the base of the rock face and gives easy access to the top of the crags.

**9. The First Time (17)** ***
FA: Tim Loft; Derek Marshall (7 July 2003)

Climb the right trending finger crack to the left of a big tree. The tree is actually on the route. About 10 m up the crack becomes vertical. The vertical section is followed by a ramp. Up the ramp then up a short open book. Top out in a large tree.

**10. Expectations (16) ***
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (12 Oct 2002)

About half way up the gully leading to the top of the crag there is a crack and ramp system that slopes up to the right. Climb the ramp and then the short face to the top.

Rocks and Rapids. Photo: Anthony van Tonder

## 3. CINDERELLA SLABS

See location map on page 50 and the topo on page 60.

Downstream from the "old" camp site on the north bank and directly below the Red Wall there are some grey slabs showing through the bush. At the base of these slabs are some large trees with prominent, white trunks.

From the old, low level bridge, walk down the north bank to a point **about 10 m downstream** of the prominent "Roast Beef Boulder" located on the edge of the river. Turn left and head up through the bush then straight up a steep scree slope. Continue up even more steeply through the bush until you reach the base of the slabs. At the base of the slabs turn right and follow the base of the crag for about 10 m to reach the first climbs.

The slabs are formed from a type of soft talc. Both this and the balancy nature of the routes make them totally different from any other routes at the White Umfolozi.

**Note:** Since these neat lines are all on balance and below an overhanging forest, they tend to collect leaves and assorted debris. **Please make an effort to clean them if necessary.**

The first three routes are located at the first, large right-facing corner.

**1. Follow Me (13) [5B; C] *****
FA: Gavin Peckham (18 July 2003)

Climb the big, right-facing corner using lay-away holds where necessary. Good gear – trad or sport as you prefer.

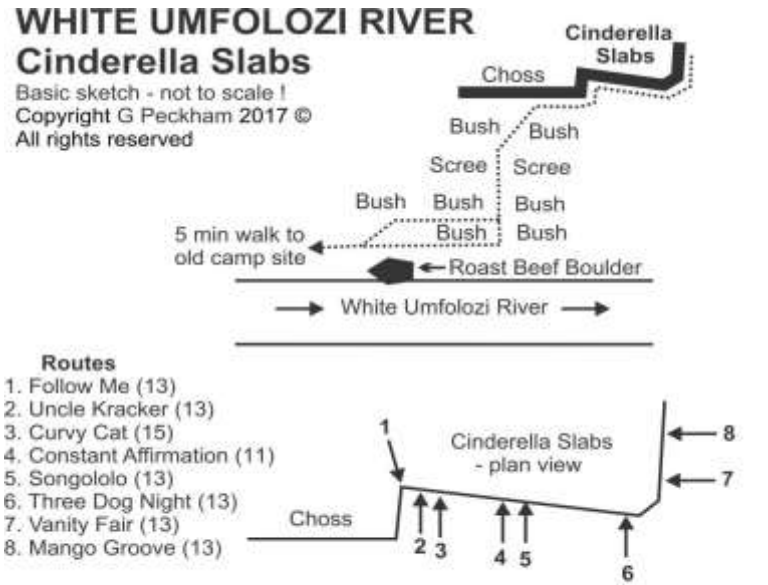
**2. Uncle Kracker (13) [4B; C] *****
FA: Gavin Peckham (18 July 2003)

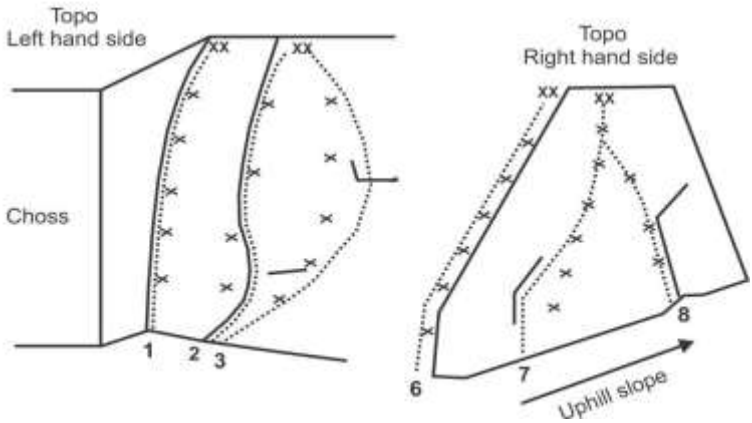
Start one metre to the right of the corner and follow the excellent crack line to the chains. Good gear – trad or sport as you prefer. Shares chains with the next route.

**3. Curvy Cat (15) [5B; C] ***

FA: Gavin Peckham (03 Aug 2003)

Start at the base of the 'Uncle Kracker' crack. Initially climb up diagonally to the right. Continue up, keeping to the right of the bolts to reach a tiny ledge. From the ledge thin moves diagonally up to the left (crux) leads to the chains which are shared with the previous route.



**4. Constant Affirmation (11) [6B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (12 September 2014)

Climb the right-facing corner / groove about 5 m to the right of the 'Follow Me' corner using lay away holds where necessary. If you ask Anthony van Tonder he may be persuaded tell you why the route is so named.

**5. Songololo (13) [6B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (12 September 2014)

After an interesting start, climb the line of bolts immediately to the right of the previous route. It is easy to avoid the small, suspect block that is miraculously secured by the roots of a small tree. Just in case, the **belayer should be aware of the possible danger.**

**6. Three Dog Night (13) [6B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (09 August 2003)

Walk about 10 m to the right of the 'Constant Affirmation' corner. This line starts just before the wall turns a corner and heads uphill. Climb up through the break and then move left to reach the easy angled arête which is followed to the top.

**7. Vanity Fair (13) [6B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (09 August 2003)

Start just around the corner to the right of the previous route. Start up a thin crack line and then continue up the slab tending right to the chains.

**8. Mango Groove (13) [4B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (09 August 2003)

Start at a crack line in the back of a recess about 5 m up the slope to the right of 'Vanity Fair'. Climb the crack and then head up diagonally left to reach the chains at the top of the previous route. Short but neat.

The Cinderella Slabs showing the right-facing corner of Follow Me and the crack line of Uncle Kracker.

## 4. THE BITS AND PIECES WALL

This long line of high, bushy cliffs stretches from the Red Wall downstream to the Promised Land area – see location map on pages 15 and 16. The wall is perched above a band of steep, vegetated slabs that average about 20 m in height. There is a convenient access ledge along the downstream half of the wall. This ledge follows the line where the top of the slabs meets the bottom of the main face. The ledge is low and broad at its downstream end near 'Butterfly' but as you move upstream it becomes progressively narrower and higher until it peters out. This wall has potential for many new two-pitch routes but quite a bit of gardening may be required.

The following routes are listed from right to left in an upstream sequence. The first four can be reached by the access ledge but the remaining routes must be approached by a scramble up the slabs from river level.

**1. The Lorax (17) [C] ******

FA: Rob Dyer; Mike Ward (10 August 1997)

About 40 m upstream from a point directly beneath the power lines, and just in front of the line of bush that runs along the base of the wall, there is a large, white, flat-faced boulder, leaning on top of another wedge-shaped boulder. About 2 m down-stream from these boulders (and behind the bush) there is a large, clean, shallow recess that runs straight up to the top of the crag. Climb straight up the centre of this recess towards a small roof two thirds of the way up. Climb up the blocks just to the right of the roof until it is possible to step back left onto a steep slab above the roof. Continue straight up and then into a wide crack with a small chock stone (tricky). About a metre above the chock stone (and just below the top) it is necessary to step out of the crack and around to the right onto a small, yellow face. Continue straight up to the top. There are abseil chains hidden among the rocks at the top. An excellent and well protected line.

L to R: The Lorax (17); Carnivore (20); Cleavage (16)
Photo: Grant Tunmer

**2. Miff-Muffered Moof (17; 24) [6B; C. 5B; C] ******
FA P1: Hallam Payne (29 April 2023). P2 Closed project.
Start 4 m left of 'The Lorax', and follow the bolts up to the chains at the bottom of the big right-angled corner (end of P1). Go up onto the face right of the arete and continue up (crux), crossing back into the corner near the top. Carry on up easier ground to the top of the crag. The first pitch is consistent and good, the second is a bit of a three-move wonder.

**3. Old Times Again (16) *** (31 July 2005)**
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham; Cesar de Carvalho

This line is located at the back of the huge bushy recess between 'Butterfly' and 'The Lorax'. Scramble up over the rock fall and then through the bush at the back of the huge recess. The line follows the prominent crack line up the face on the right-hand side of the recess. Climb the crack to a ledge where the crack forks. Step to the left and take the crack on the left, finishing up a short open-book that leans back at an easy angle.

**4. Butterfly (16) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley (30 August 1997)

About 100 m upstream of the power lines there is an obvious rock-fall at the base of the crag. A further 10 m upstream is a distinctive, rectangular "sentry-box" recess that starts a couple of metres above the base of the crag. Climb to the top of the recess. Exit the recess at its top left-hand corner and continue straight up on good holds to reach a large vegetated ledge. Ab off the nearest tree. A short but pleasant climb.

**5. Bee Line (18, 21) [6B; C] : [7B; C] *** (04 September 2005)**
FA: Mark Misselhorn; Mark McLeod; Anthony van Tonder

Walk about 50 m upstream from 'Butterfly'. Start at the base of an open book about 10 m upstream of a vegetated gully.

Pitch 1: Climb the face to the right of the open book. Climb a layback crack and then move right onto a ledge next to a block.

Pitch 2: Climb the clean face moving left onto the arête. Move back right to the base of the headwall and climb it using a small roof as an undercling in the lower section. Exit via the small recess at the top by moving out left onto the final arête or, if you are tall, by moving straight up the recess.

The name derives from the fact that Gavin Peckham and JJ Wigley were driven off by a hive of angry bees when they originally attempted to trad this route on 30 August 1997. Fortunately, the bees have relocated themselves.

**6. BMC Diagonal (14, 15) *****

FA: Steve Cooke; Joanna George (Jo was a member of a visiting BMC Team) (05 May 2002)

The start of the route is best approached by walking about 50 m upstream from 'Butterfly', following the ledge at the base of the crag. When the ledge almost pinches out, walk around the corner and then scramble up and back to the right to reach the base of a small fig tree growing on the cliff.

Pitch 1. (35 m) Climb up diagonally left off the stance and continue up and left into an awkward recess. Step left out of the recess and continue up and left to a short fist-jam crack. Climb the crack exiting left onto the face and then traverse up and slightly left to a good stance on blocks below and to the right of a huge fig tree.

Pitch 2. (30 m) Scramble left until directly under the big fig tree. Climb up a crack on the left-hand side of the corner onto a narrow ledge. Climb up to a small platform. From this platform there are three lines of weakness to the top. The route follows a line between the middle and the left-hand cracks on clean, well-protected rock in an excellent position.

Descent: Walk about 30 m downstream and scramble down to a huge tree growing out of the very edge of the cliff. A 45 m abseil ends just downstream of the point where the ledge almost pinches out against the base of the cliff.

**7. Sweet Sixteen (16, 16) ***
FA: Martin Skinner; Joanna George – members of a visiting BMC Team (06 May 2002)

About 100 m upstream from the 'Butterfly' recess there is a prominent fig tree growing in a bay above a bushy ledge. Left of this, and slightly higher, is a square shaped buttress with an arch-shaped overhang on its left side. The route follows a prominent, left slanting crack towards the right-hand side of this.

Pitch 1. (15 m) Follow the crack to a good ledge and move left to belay on a block.

Pitch 2. (30 m) Climb up directly above the belay to gain the left slanting crack and follow this to the overhang. Traverse out to the right passing a vegetated corner to reach the arête that is followed to the top.

**8. Tata Ma Millions (16) ****
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (26 April 2004)

This route starts just a bit further up the slope (left) from 'Sweet Sixteen'. Start at the obvious vertical line that breaks the face directly below the left-hand edge of the roof. Climb straight up this break to a large vegetated ledge. Move left to a block. Climb up a metre or so, traverse left for about two metres and then continue straight up towards the left-hand edge of the roof above. Traverse to the right under the roof to a corner and then climb the arête to the top. The final part of this route is the same as 'Sweet Sixteen'. A good line with great climbing at its grade.

A typical climbing photo taken by an amateur.

"More arse than class."

Photo: C De C – who should have known better!

## 5. THE PROMISED LAND

The **Promised Land** is located at the extreme downstream end of the Bits & Pieces Wall. It is directly below the power lines and is set back from the river, up a slope and behind bushes and trees. It is rather arbitrarily separated from the Bits and Pieces Wall by the fact that it is at a higher level and is reached by a separate access ledge. On its downstream end it is separated from the Friction Wall by a rocky scramble that gives access to the top of the crags. This area is generally quite shady and gets the best of any available breeze – a good place for a hot day!

The Promised Land is most easily reached by walking upstream from the Friction Wall along the slabs of flat rock about half way between the river and the base of the Friction Wall. Follow the longest line of slabs upstream. When they peter out, turn to the right and walk straight uphill, through the bush to the base of the wall. Turn left and follow the path along the base of the crag for about 20 m to the scramble route access. This goes up back up diagonally to the right. Just past (3 m) the turn-back to the scramble, the path drops about 2 m into a mini amphitheatre and then continues for another 30 m to reach the Promised Land – see map on pages 15 and 16.

The climbs are listed in an upstream sequence from right to left – the sequence that you will encounter them as you walk in.

**1. Chicken Wing (14) [5B; C] *****
FA: Gavin Peckham (11 July 2007)

This route is located about 5 m upstream of the point where the approach path drops about 2 m into a tiny rocky amphitheatre and about 20 m before you reach the central Promised Land face. Climb up slabs and ledges then finish up an awkward recess that generally requires a "chicken wing" move with your right arm and a high step with your left foot. This route tends to become somewhat vegetated. **Please do your bit** by performing some diligent gardening as you lower off.

**2. Freckles (14) [4B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (03 August 2003)

This neat little route starts about 2 m to the left of 'Chicken Wing'. Climb up easy rock tending slightly left to reach the base of a narrow, smooth-sided recess / open book and follow this up to the chains. At the top, step up and out to the right onto a small, sloping foothold before attempting to thread the chains. This line may look a bit arbitrary but it makes the average climber stop and think a bit here and there!

**Note:** The next routes (3 – 8) are all on the central face of the Promised Land which is about 20 m upstream from the previous two routes. A ledge runs across the base of the main Promised Land face. This rises in a series of three steps going from right to left. The highest (third) step on the left is currently home to a fair-sized tree with a trunk that bends over almost horizontally. On the right-hand side of the face there is a large boulder with a flat face propped up against the wall.

**3. Mr Wolf (16) [6B; C] *** (Retro-bolted)**
FA: Gavin Peckham; Nicky Swart (03 Aug 2003)

Scramble up to a stance above the large, flat-faced boulder located at the right-hand side of the Promised Land face. Climb the smooth sided recess that starts above and behind the boulder to reach a small ledge. Continue easily up the large, grey, left-tending flake line to reach the base of vertical orange rock split by a finger crack. Climb the crack (crux) to the chains.

**4. Treason Knees (18) [6B; C] ***
FA: Hallam Payne and Shane McPherson (25 August 2013)

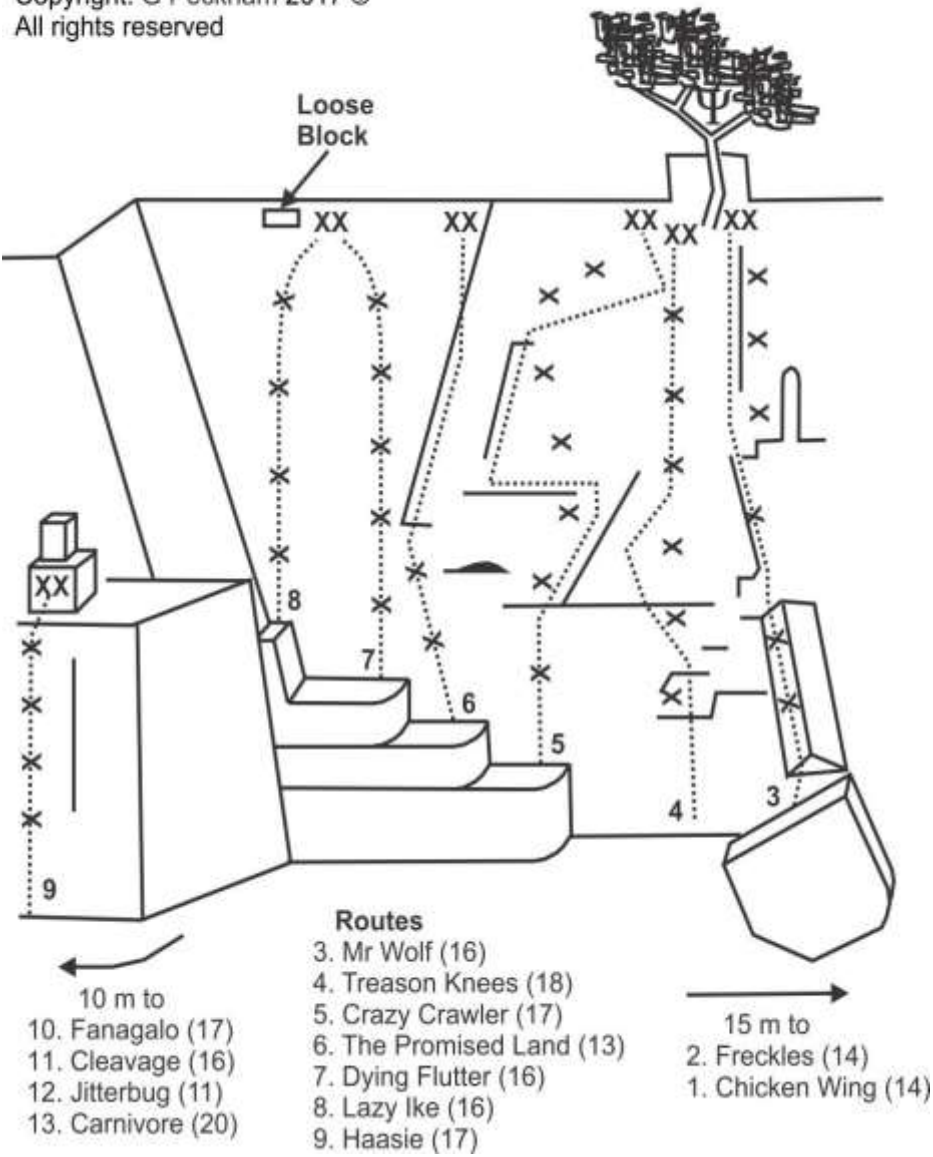
Start midway between 'Crazy Crawler' and 'Mr Wolf'. Boulder up right of the bolts, then traverse left and up onto a large ledge. Continue up on good holds which become thin near the top.

# White Umfolozi River

## Promised Land : Central Area

Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved



**5. Crazy Crawler (17) [7B; C] ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (03 August 2003)

Start on the lowest ledge about 2 m right of 'The Promised Land' crack. Climb up past two bolts to a narrow ledge with a short right-tending crack on its right. Continue up 3 m to another narrow ledge. Move across to the left-hand side of this ledge and then climb the right-tending line on layaway holds for about 3 m to a jug. From here head right and slightly up on thin holds (crux) until you can stretch up for a good edge just above the chains.

**6. The Promised Land (13) [2B; trad; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (03 August 2003)

Climb up onto the middle ledge about 2 m to the left of 'Crazy Crawler'. Climb up past two bolts heading slightly left to reach the start of a crack line that tends slightly to the right and runs up to chains at the top of the crag. Climb the crack using large wires and medium cams. If you don't have a trad rack, you can top-rope this route by climbing the next route and then stepping across to the right to reach the chains.

To the left of the 'Promised Land' crack there is a neat little grey face with two bolted lines that share chains. You can wander all over this face but try and climb as straight up the bolted lines as possible. **Beware of the wedged block to the left of the chains.**

**7. Dying Flutter (16) [5B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (03 August 2003)

Scramble up to the highest ledge with a large tree. Climb straight up the grey face past five bolts to the chains that are shared with the next route. Thin and reachy in places.

**8 Lazy Ike (16) [4B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (03 August 2003)

Climb up onto the block on the left of 'Dying Flutter'. Climb straight up the grey face past four bolts to chains that are shared with the previous route. Thin and reachy in places.

**9. Haasie (17) [4B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (2 March 2014)

Climb the short, neat line just to the left of the central Promised Land face. The manual labour of placing the bolts (more than are necessary) was kindly undertaken by Hansie van Rooyen.

**10. Fanagalo (17) ***
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (25 April 2004)

Start at the obvious line about 10 m to the left of 'Haasie'. Move awkwardly up onto a small triangular ledge at about head height then continue easily straight up for a couple of metres before heading for the left tending recess located slightly to the left. Climb this (crux) and avoid the perched blocks as you top out. The apparently more obvious finishes, running straight up and out to the right both run into difficult, unprotected rock at the top.

"Floating Rocks" Photo: Anthony van Tonder

**11. Cleavage (16) ***
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (25 April 2004)

Start about 15 m upstream of 'Haasie' and directly below a large cleft in the top of the crag. Climb straight up to the start of the cleft clipping the first two bolts of 'Jitterbug' on the way, then climb the cleft to the top. This line provides some interesting climbing with a few awkward moves near the top.

**12. Jitterbug (11) [4B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (03 August 2003)

Start as for 'Cleavage' and climb up diagonally left past four bolts to reach the chains part way up 'Carnivore'.

**13. Carnivore (20) [9B; C] *****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Bruce Tomalin (31 May 2008)

Start directly below the 'Jitterbug' chains. Climb straight up past them to reach a slab on the left of a left-facing corner. Climb the left-hand edge of this slab on small holds and continue up to the chains. Moving around to the left and onto a small ramp at the level of the 'Jitterbug' chains is "verboten". Instead, find the concealed hold at shoulder height around the corner to the left. This enables you to lay away to the right and then continue straight up. Excellent climbing on superb rock.

Leopard spoor at the Friction Wall. Photo: Hallam Payne

## 6. FRICTION WALL

Midway along the base of this wall are some very large blocks known as the **Lunch Blocks**. These make a useful reference point for locating various routes. Climbs downstream from the Lunch Blocks may be inaccessible from time to time, depending on the current position of the river and the sandbanks.

A large sandbar stretches across a much of the base of this wall - bring a rope mat! The rock and routes on this wall are generally superb and are mostly between 20 m and 25 m long.

Immediately upstream from the Lunch Blocks there is a huge, uncapped recess / open book. The line 'A Bit On The Side' runs up the corner at the back of this big recess. Upstream of this there are **five** recesses each capped by a triangular roof. The capped recess nearest the 'Lunch Blocks' is small and relatively insignificant. The remaining four capped recesses are much larger and are useful for getting your bearings.
**Note the letters identifying these recesses.**

**1. What's In It For Me? (16 / 19) ****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Gavin Raubenheimer (08 June 2002)

Start at the base of a deep, recess about 8 m upstream of the 'Stepladder' corner (E – on page 74). Stem up to the top of the recess (19) and then follow the crack line straight up to the top. Alternatively, (16) start about 4 m further upstream and climb diagonally right up an easy slab until it is possible to step across to the right to reach a point on the crack line just above the top of the deep recess. After this, follow the crack line to the top as before. This line is generally well protected.

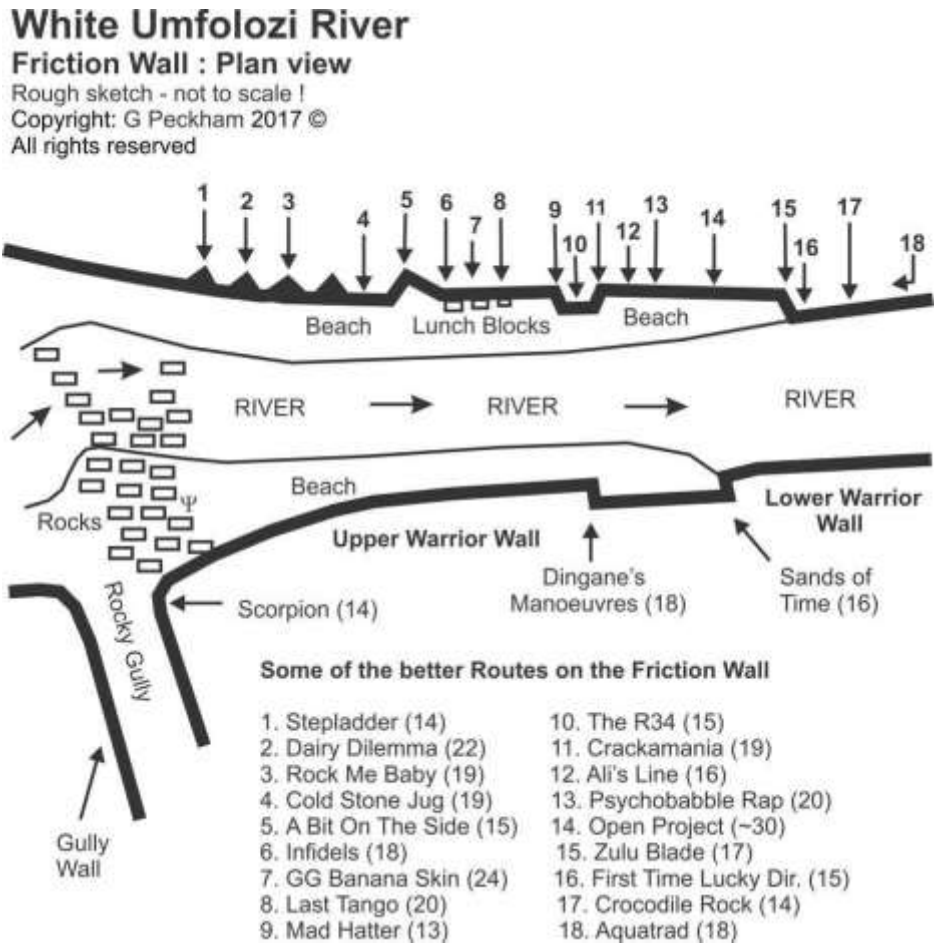
**2. Stepladder (14) *****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Stefan Landman (30 August 1998)

This line starts in the most upstream of the capped recesses upstream of the Lunch Blocks (E on page 74). Climb the crack at the back of the recess to a point about 4 m below the triangular roof. At this point leave the main recess (which tends off slightly right), and climb up for about 2 m (crux) to an overlap. Exit left onto a ledge. Either scramble diagonally left to the top via a vegetated gully (14) or finish directly up the face above the ledge (17). This is a pleasant and well protected route.

**3. Think Of The Glory (17) ***
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (08 June 2002)

Start 8 m downstream from 'Stepladder' and just to the left of a point directly below a large, V-shaped groove / recess that starts about 6 m above the ground. Pull up onto the undercut wall and climb a shallow recess for about 6 m until you can step across to the right to reach a small ledge at the base of the large, V-shaped recess. Climb the recess for about 8 m until it peters out. Step out, and up to the right (crux) and then continue up the crack line to the top. Good climbing, but gear is somewhat sparse.

There's an interesting story about the names, 'What's in it For Me?' and 'Think of the Glory'. Ask me over a beer some day!




**4. Dairy Dilemma (22) ******

FA: Neil McQueen; Shaun Cooke (1992)

This route is located in the large, capped recess (D on page 74). Start up the corner and then climb up diagonally right to the right-hand end of the roof. Continue up the right-tending corner to overhanging rock and then traverse out to the left for about 4 m to reach the arête which is followed powerfully to the top. Careful rope work is necessary to avoid excessive rope drag. An awesome line. There's a story behind this name as well. Contact Neil or ask me if you are interested.

**5. Rock Me Baby (19) [10B; C] *****
FA: Anthony van Tonder; Gavin Peckham (12 October 2002)

Start at the big, roofed corner (C on page 74) downstream from 'Dairy Dilemma'. Do a gorilla pull up to reach the slab under the roof. Traverse across the slab using small but adequate holds. Move out around the right-hand end of the roof to gain the start of a ramp that slopes up to the right. Climb the ramp to a bulging overhang. Move out delicately to the right, across a smooth slab (crux) to gain a stance at the base of a short arête. From here, climb straight up to the chains.

**6. Super Sport (18) ***
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (09 June 2002)

This route starts under the right-hand end of roof B (see photo on page 74). Step up onto the slightly under-cut black slab and climb easily straight up past a peg to a point just right of the right hand-edge of the roof. Gear is sparse but you can clip the first two bolts on the next route if you're desperate. A layaway move with a back-step gets you into the right-facing corner that leads up from the right-hand end of the roof. Continue up the corner with good gear (small wires and cams) to an obvious fork about 6 m below the top. Take the left-hand fork to exit. At the top you can move to the left and ab off the chains at the top of 'Rock Me Baby' or top out and ab off a tree.

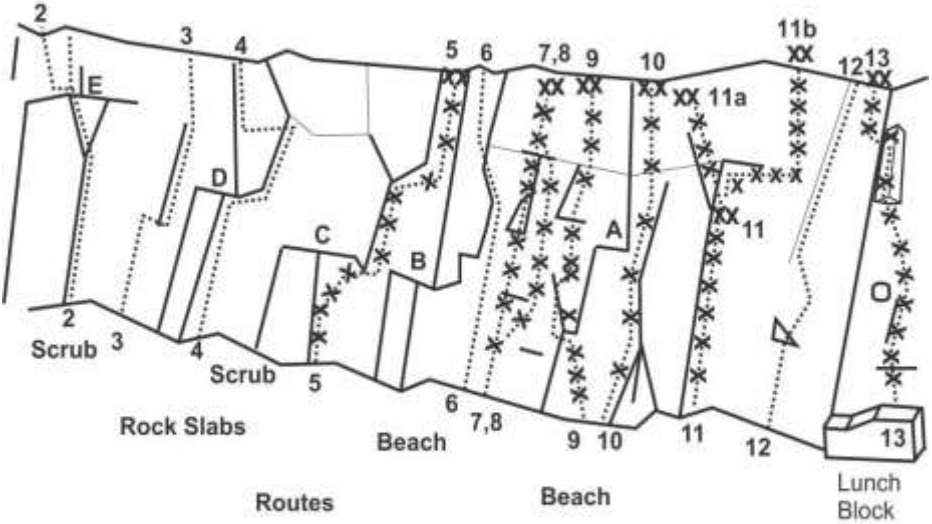
**7. Stone Crazy (21) [8B; C] ***
FA: Anthony van Tonder; Gavin Peckham (03 August 2003)

Start just to the right of the previous route. Pull up onto the slightly undercut black face and climb easily up past two bolts to reach a ledge at about 8 m. Continue straight up past two more bolts to a ledge that forms the base of a triangular recess. Climb the crack line leading up from the recess (crux) using the lay-away line on the **left** to reach a third ledge. Follow the easiest line up past two more bolts to the chains.

# White Umfolozi River
# Friction Wall
## Left Hand Side

Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved




2. Stepladder (14)
3. Think of the Glory (17)
4. Dairy Dilemma (22)
5. Rock Me Baby (19)
6. Super Sport (18)
7. Stone Crazy (21)
8. Diamond in the Rough (19)
9. Cold Stone Jug (19)
10. Dyslexia (21)
11. A Bit On The Side (15)
12. Hunted Child (21)
13. Infidels (18)

River →

**A** to **E** are roofs. Roof **A** is quite small. Roofs **B** to **E** are large.

**8. Diamond In The Rough (19) [8B; C] ******

FA: Mark Misselhorn; Anthony van Tonder (30 July 2005)

Take off as for 'Stone Crazy' then move off right, through a small recess, over a bulge, up a vague break, and gain a smooth grey slab (crux). Finish as for 'Stone Crazy'. Varied climbing on brilliant rock with an exhilarating crux on the grey slab. Shares the top 2 bolts and chains with 'Stone Crazy'. The opening party of 'Stone Crazy' like to image that this meandering 4 star line is just a minor variation of their original, direct 3 star route!

**9. Cold Stone Jug (19) [10B; C] *****
FA: Anthony van Tonder; Gavin Peckham (18 May 2003)

Start on the face 2 m to the left of the 'Dyslexia' arête. Climb up, tending left, to reach a position immediately below a small overlap that is located at the top of a smooth, right-tending recess. Move out left then up to a small stance. Reach out right and lay-away left off a flake then climb the crack above in a series of excellent moves to reach a comfortable ledge at the base of a triangular recess. Climb the recess and then continue up to the top making use of a less than obvious layaway hold high up to the left at one stage.

**10. Dyslexia (21) [11B; C] ****
FA: Gerald Camp (1994)
Climb the arête and ramp on the left-hand side of the huge (uncapped) recess just upstream of the Lunch Blocks.

**11. A Bit On The Side (15) [6B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Grant Tunmer (21 December 2003)

Climb the corner at the back of the huge recess immediately upstream from the Lunch Blocks. **Please clean as you lower.**

**11 (a). Extension A (17) [6B; C] + [3B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Grant Tunmer (21 December 2003)

Climb 'A Bit On The Side'. Continue up the recess on the left, past three more bolts, to reach another set of chains. Awkward.

**11 (b). Extension B (18) [6B; C] + [9B; C] ****
FA: Hallam Payne (16 June 2017) Bolts pkfo Gavin Peckham who, in his dotage, was unable to open his own route !

Climb 'A Bit On The Side'. Continue up the corner until it is possible to traverse out to the right using spaced handholds above, and a thin foot holds below the obvious, large rail. At the 'Hunted Child' crack line, follow the line of bolts up to the top.

**12. Hunted Child (21) ****
FA: Angus Lamming; Neil McQueen (1992)

Start at the centre of the right-hand face of the huge corner immediately upstream (left) of the Lunch Blocks. Climb up to a triangular niche and then move up to the thin, right-tending crack line which is followed to the top.

Comment: Protection is seriously sparse. The first ascentionist has refused permission for reto-bolting.

**13. Infidels (18) [12B; C] *****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Bruce Tomalin (26 April 2008)

Start at the upstream end of the Lunch Blocks. Pull up onto a ledge. Climb a right-tending crack line to a rest just to the right of a protruding block. Continue straight up (hard) or (easier) step right on a narrow edge and then continue up the face with some initial difficulty until it is possible to pull up into a good stance at the base of a vertical recess. From the top of the recess step out left and then continue up the slab to the chains. The chains can be easily reached from above for top-roping.

**14. God's Great Banana Skin (24) [5B; C] *****
FA: Gerald Camp (1993)

Start off the upstream end of the Lunch Blocks. Climb an easy slab and then fire straight up the smooth face past five widely spaced bolts that have held many falls. In those days bolts were expensive and Gerald was both poor and bold! This "must-do" line affords superb climbing on excellent rock.

**15. High Step To Hell (25) [6B; C] ****
FA: Gerald Camp (1994)

Start as for 'God's Great Banana Skin'. After the first bolt, move right and then up. After some challenging climbing the thin ending requires a dyno. Good luck !

**16. Last Tango (20) [11B; C] ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (31 July 2004)

Either start (unprotected) on the left up the slab, as for 'GGBS', or (trickier) climb straight up the steep slab for 3 m to reach a narrow rock ledge. Continue up the right-tending crack line using some less than obvious holds to avoid strenuous lay-backing and reach a comfortable stance. From here climb straight up the blocks and ledges on the left to reach the chains. A lot of gardening was necessary to produce this excellent route! Please make an effort to keep it clean.

**17. Devil In Disguise (18) [9B; C] ****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Bruce Tomalin (24 May 2008)

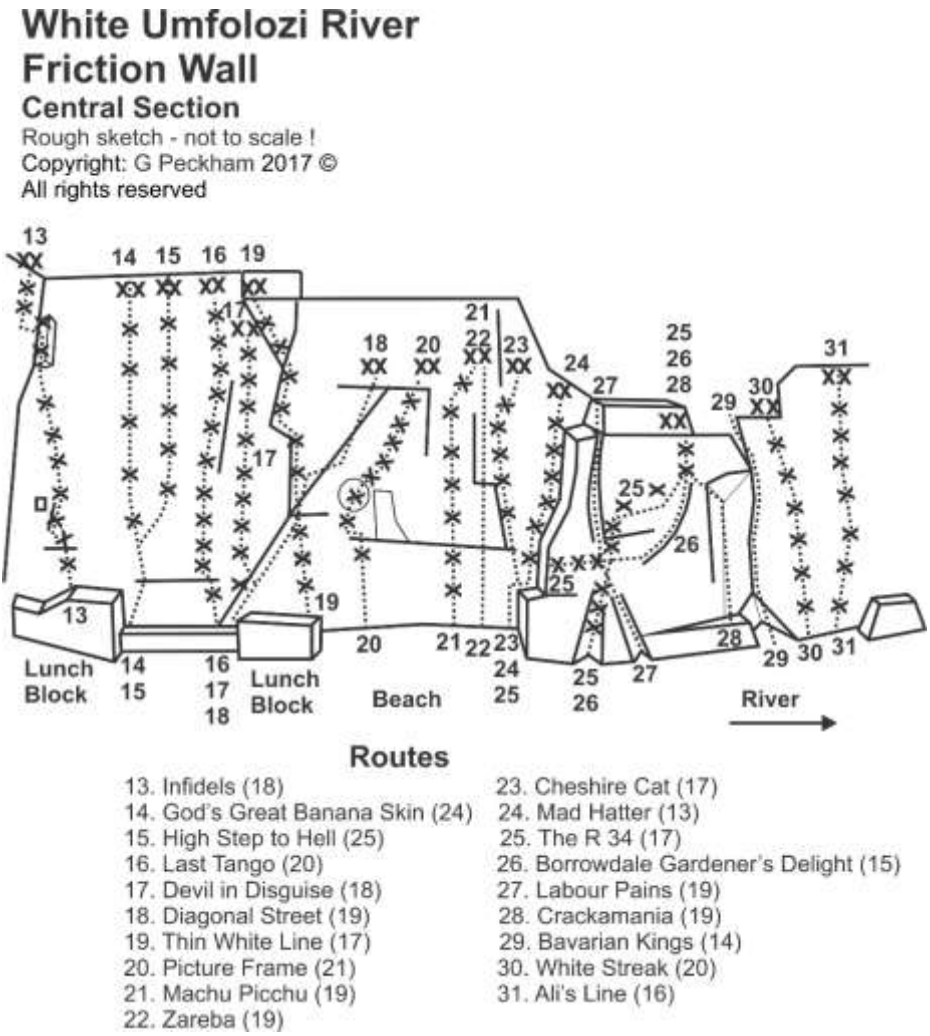
Climb about 5 m up the 'Diagonal Street' slab. With the 2nd bolt at waist level, step out left onto the face and continue up, tending left to reach a good under-cling. From here, move up diagonally right to reach a large stance. Pull up and out left then continue up to the stance on 'Last Tango'. The chains are at the top of the slab on the right. Alternatively, adjust the draws and continue up 'Last Tango'.

**18. Diagonal Street (19) [C] ***
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (09 June 2002)

Start near the middle of the ledge between the two large Lunch Blocks. Climb a slab to reach a large, right-tending diagonal crack line. Follow the crack up to a large, vegetated ledge. This is a well protected line with good rests but may need cleaning if it has not been climbed recently.

**19. Thin White Line (17) [9B; C] *** 23 m**
FA: Anthony van Tonder (19 June 2011)

Start behind the bush just to the right of the previous route. Climb up the thin quartz seam to a ledge with aloes. Continue up the corner system to the chains at the top, moving left onto the arête for the last few metres.




**20. Picture Frame (21) [9B; C] ******

FA: Anthony van Tonder (10 September 2006)

Start just to the right of the Lunch Blocks. Climb 5 m up a steep slab on very thin holds to reach a big ledge under an overhang. Move 1 m left and climb 4 m up to a circular "picture frame" recess. Climb up diagonally right and exit the "frame" (crux) by using a hold high and up to the right. Continue straight up to finish on a big ledge.

**21. Machu Picchu (19) [7B; C] ***
FA: Anthony van Tonder; Gavin Raubenheimer (24 Sept 2006)

Start about 4 m to the right of 'Picture Frame'. Climb straight up to a ledge under an overhang. Climb the overhanging recess to gain a small, black ledge on the left (crux). Climb the smooth grey slabs (tricky), then climb diagonally right up a very narrow ramp using a high finger pocket for your left hand whilst under-clinging on the narrow overlap with your right hand. Finish on a big ledge near the top of the crag. Vegetated, but worth another star if it was properly cleaned. Derek Marshall would be proud of a vegetated route like this!

**22. Zareba (19) ***
FA: Hallam Payne (21 June 2015)

Start between 'Machu Picchu' and 'Cheshire Cat' - about 3 m right of 'Machu Picchu'. Climb the crack to the ledge. Pull up hard right of the bolts. Follow the layback crack above and finish on the 'Machu Picchu' chains. Gear is good, although all in a similar range (2 – 4 cm). Be very careful of a fall onto the big ledge. Slightly vegetated but now climbable since Hallam has done Anthony van Tonder the favour of cleaning AvT's two adjacent routes.

**23. Cheshire Cat (17) [5B; C] ***
FA: Anthony van Tonder; Gavin Peckham (09 August 2008)

Scramble up to the first big ledge in the 'Mad Hatter' corner. Climb the short left-tending crack line on the left side of the face (crux) to reach easier rock. Continue up past a bulge via a small, loose-looking but solid flake. A good route and better than it looks!

**24. Mad Hatter (13) [6B; C] ***** (Retro-bolted)
First known ascent: Anthony van Tonder; Gavin Peckham (24 September 2000)

Start in the big left-facing corner about 10 m to the right of the Lunch Blocks. Scramble up a series of large, stepped ledges then climb the big corner to the chains.

**25. The R34 (17) [9B; C] *** ** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham; Marianne Nikoma (22 December 2003)

Start in a large recess about 3 m downstream from the 'Mad Hatter' corner. Climb the smooth slab on the right of the recess for about 3 m and then continue up to a large ledge. Move up and establish yourself on the face between the large 'Labour Pains' crack on the left and the 'BGD' ramp on the right. Traverse easily across to the right-hand side of the face on good ledges and then climb straight up (crux) using an excellent finger jam crack to reach the chains.

**Alternatively:** If the water level is high, then start on the first big ledge in the 'Mad Hatter' corner and traverse around to the right past three bolts to reach the original line. After topping out, to prevent your ropes from dropping into the river, walk back upstream for about 5 m. Scramble down about 4 m or ab off a single chain to reach a ledge adjacent to the 'Mad Hatter ' chains. Abseil off these to the bottom.

**26. Borrowdale Gardener's Delight (15) ***
FA: Dave Rogers; Ryan Glass – Members of a visiting BMC Team (05 May 2002)
Start in a large, right-tending recess about 3 m downstream from the 'Mad Hatter' corner. Climb the crack in the recess for about 3 m – the same start at for 'The R34'. Traverse a couple of metres to the right to reach the base of a ramp that slopes up to the right. Climb easily to the top of the ramp. A few steeper, but well protected moves straight up the wall on the left lead to the finishing ledge and the chains on the 'R34'.

Note the possible alternative start as per the previous route.

**27. Labour Pains (19) **
FA: Marianne Nikoma; Derek Marshall (21 December 2003)

Start at the short, awkward, overhanging and left-tending off-width(!) located about 2 m to the right of the communal start to the previous two routes. Grovel up this off-width, over a ledge and up the left-tending chimney. Ab off the 'Mad Hatter' chains.

**28. Crackamania (19) ***
FA: David Olds (1993)

About 10 m to the right of 'The R34' there is an excellent, thin crack line leading up into a right-facing corner. The crack continues up the back of the corner and curves off to the left just below a bulging overhang. Start on a rock ledge about a metre above the river bed. Some steep climbing up the crack on good finger locks is followed by easier moves up and out left to the arête where a high step in an exposed position leads to the belay ledge. Protection is excellent. Ab off the chains on 'The R34' or 'Mad Hatter'.

**29. Bavarian Kings (14) *** (Due for retro-bolting soon)**
FA: Derek Marshall; Marianne Nikoma (21 December 2003)

This line takes the obvious, deep vertical recess about 2 m to the right of 'Crackamania'. Ab off the chains at the top of the 'R34'.

**30. White Streak (20) [6B; C] ***
FA: Anthony van Tonder; Robert Sprouse; Hansie van Rooyen (4 May 2014)

Start just left of 'Ali's Line'. Step out far to the left and up onto the undercut face then more or less follow the narrow vertical white streak in the rock up to the chains.

**31. Ali's Line (16) [7B; C] *****
FA: Gerald Camp (1993) (Retro-bolted pkfo Gavin Peckham)

Start on flat slabs about 10 m left of 'Psychobabble Rap' and 1 m to the right of a streak of white rock that runs the full height of the crag. Follow the bolts up to a small, rectangular cubby hole. From here step out left and up and then move up to the chains.

**32. Shaft Of Gold (24) [7B; C] ****
FA: Hallam Payne (24 Aug 2014)

This excellent route takes the slightly right tending line that fires up from the top of the huge block about 5 m to the right of 'Ali's Line'. Sustained and reachy in places. Gets harder towards the top. Watch out for leaky bats. To Hallam's annoyance most of us simply refer to this excellent route as 'Bat Piss'.

**33. Psychobabble Rap (20) [C] *****
FA: Neil McQueen (1992)

Start about 25 m to the right of the Lunch Blocks and climb the right tending crack line that runs the full height of the smooth face. This is a superb route and protection is first class. There are ab chains at the top of the route. See photo on the following page.

**34. Open Project**
Start about 10 m to the right of 'Psychobabble Rap'. Climb up tending right initially and try to continue straight up the centre of the smooth face. Apparently the top and bottom sections "go" (just) but there is a blank bit in the middle. It's probably about 28+.

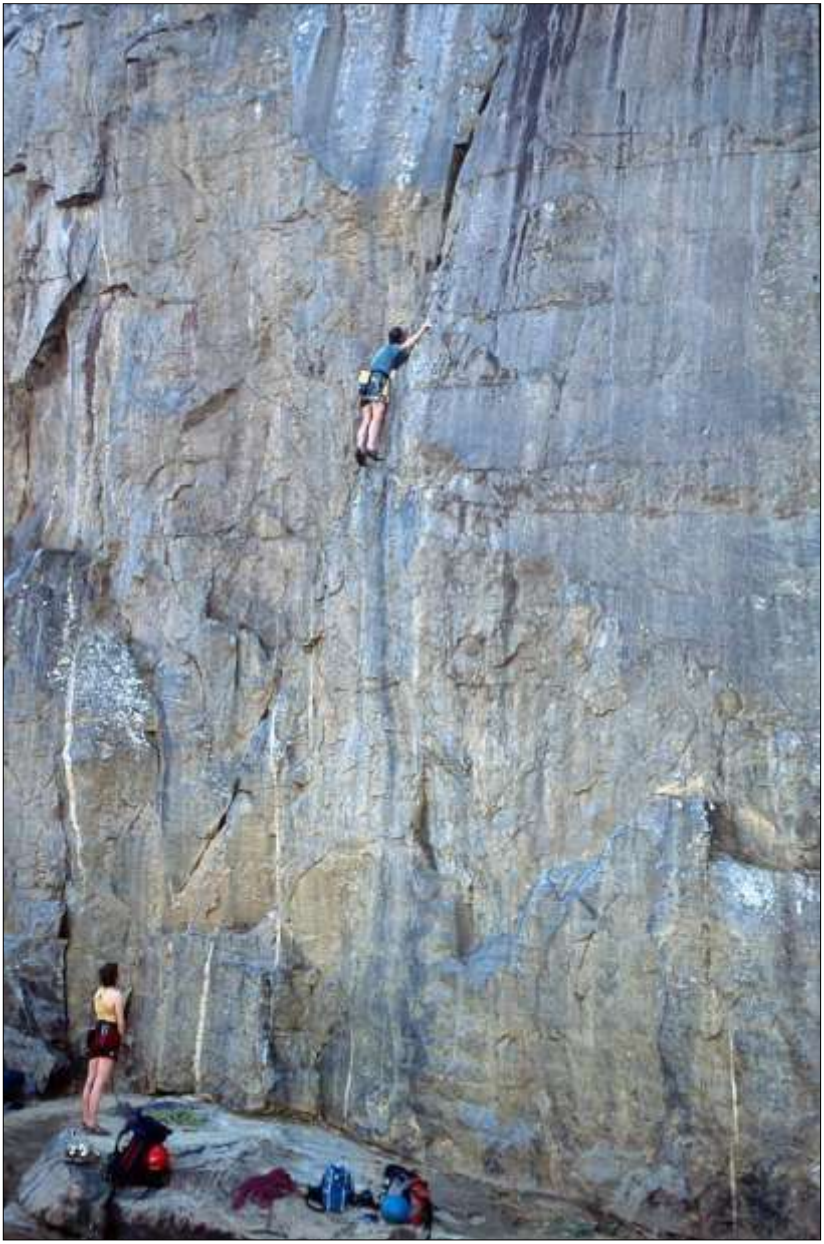
**35. Aches And Pains (18) ****
FA: R Smith; Shaun Jones (1993)

Climb the huge, left-facing corner to the right of 'Psychobabble Rap'. Topping out looks very tricky! Possibly exit to the right? I've never heard of a second ascent. Further info most welcome.

**36. Zulu Blade (17) [9B; C] ******* (Retro-bolted pkfo GP)
FA: Eric Penman; Harley Green (1993)

Just to the right of the 'Aches and Pains' corner there is an arête. Start in a short, left-facing open book directly below the arête. Climb the open book. For aesthetic reasons, stick to the face and avoid stepping out onto the big ledge on the right. Continue up the arête, keeping just to the right of the arête itself. This is an excellent route! Pause for a moment to remember the grand old man who opened this route with virtually no gear!

The next 5 routes are all on the 'Aqua Block'. This is the huge block immediately downstream of 'Zulu Blade'. It tapers off to river level on its downstream side. **NOTE:** Bolts have been placed on **top** of the 'Aqua Block' above the starts of 'Zulu Blade' and the next two routes. If the river is high and the base of these routes is under water, then you can wade across near the lower end of the Aqua Block and abseil in off these bolts to reach convenient ledges just above the normal start of the routes.



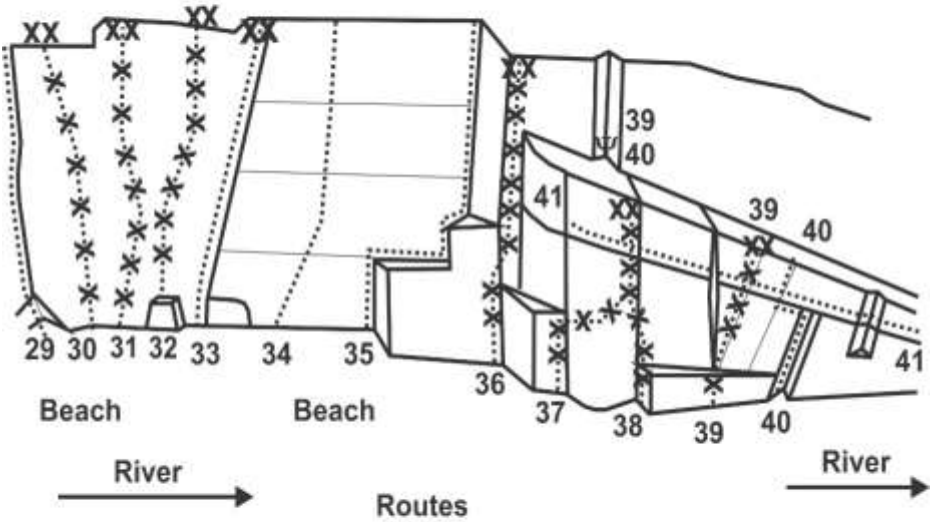
Joanna George leading the uber-classic Psychobabble Rap (20)
Photo: Anthony van Tonder

# White Umfolozi River Friction Wall

## Right Hand Side

Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved




29. Bavarian Kings (14)
30. White Streak (20)
31. Ali's Line (16)
32. Shaft of Gold (24)
33. Psychobabble Rap (20)
34. Open Project
35. Aches and Pains (18)
36. Zulu Blade (17)
37. First Time Lucky (18)
38. First Time Lucky Direct (15)
39. Crocodile Rock (14)
40. Zig Zag (14)
41. Aqua Trad (17)

**37. First Time Lucky (19) [7B; C] *****

FA: Gavin Peckham (29 April 2005)

Start in the corner immediately to the right of 'Zulu Blade'. Climb up past two bolts and then move strenuously up and right onto a ledge (crux). Traverse delicately to the right and then finish up 'First Time Lucky Direct'.

**38. First Time Lucky Direct (15) [6B; C] ***
FA: Grant Tunmer; Gavin Peckham (24 November 2003)

Start in a short, left-facing open book about 5 m to the right of 'Zulu Blade'. Climb up the slab on the right side of the open book to reach a ledge, and then continue straight up the obvious line to the chains.

**39 Crocodile Rock (14) [4B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Grant Tunmer (24 November 2003)

About 3 m to the right of 'First Time Lucky Direct' is a deep vertical gash in the 'Aqua Block'. Start just to the right of this. Climb up to a ledge and continue up to reach the start of an obvious, right tending line of "crocodile skin" rock which is followed to the top.

**40. Zig Zag (14) ****
FA: Ewan Olds (1993)

Start about 3 m to the right of 'Crocodile Rock' at a deep, smooth-sided, V-shaped, capped groove (!!!) that slopes up diagonally to the right. This is located about mid-way along the 'Aqua Block'. Climb the groove to where it ends at a small roof at the level of the 'Aqua-trad' traverse. Move left along 'Aqua-trad' for about a metre and then continue up along the obvious line that continues up diagonally to the right.

**41. Aqua–Trad (17) ***
FA: Richard Burroughs, et al. (1993)

This line starts low down near the downstream end of the 'Aqua Block' and makes a rising, upstream hand-traverse along the major crack line. The rock is very smooth and polished but the protection is good.

There may be better places on earth – but not too many better than this. Renowned Cape climber Tony Lourens refers to this stunning venue as the "Canyon of Dreams".

The rafters in the new hut. After the Sistine Chapel, this must be the most impressive roof on planet Earth.
Photo: Anthony van Tonder

# ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

## SOUTH BANK – in a downstream sequence

### 1. BUSHY BUTTRESS

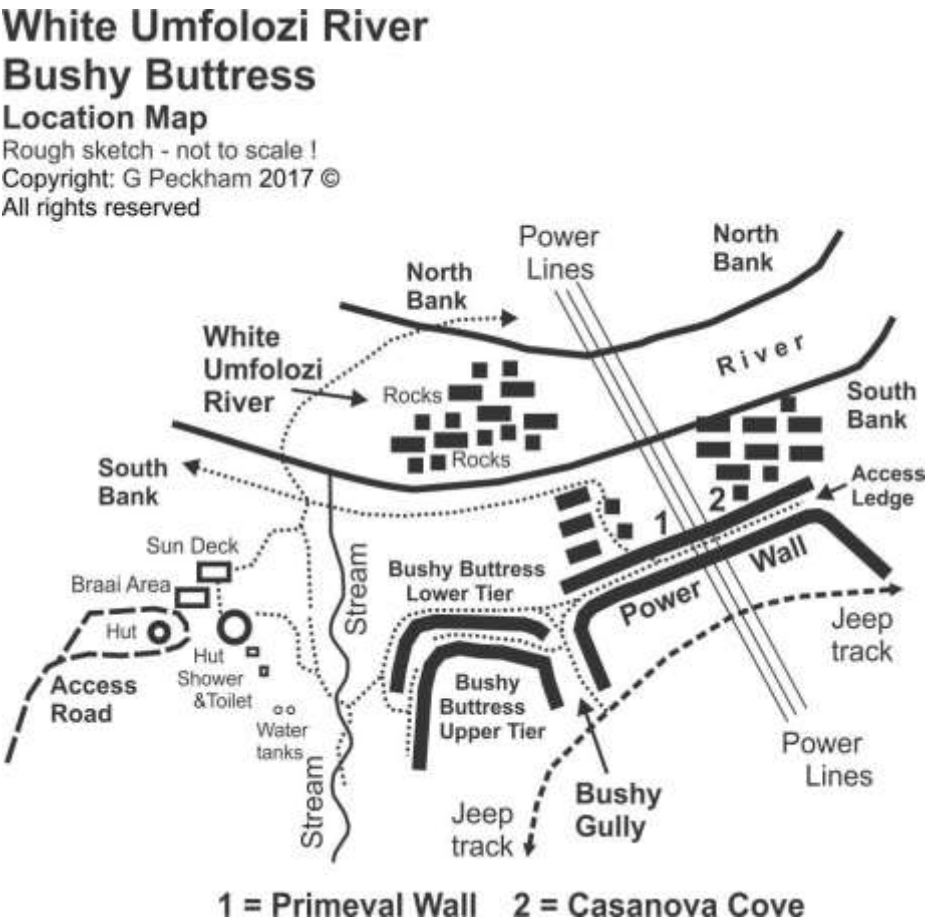
The Bushy Buttress is located upstream of the Power Wall and is separated from it by the Bushy Gully. The Bushy Buttress consists of two distinct tiers. The Upper Tier may be seen sticking up against the skyline from most vantage points, but the Lower Tier is concealed amongst the bushes and trees. The two tiers are separated by a wide, vegetated ledge with a lot of loose rock.

The rock on the Upper Tier is typical White Umfolozi rock. On the Lower Tier the rock is strangely weathered and much of it is coarse grained and friable, but with excellent friction – quite the opposite of the rock on the Lower Warrior Wall.

This shady area has many short, easy routes and is ideal to accustom a terror-stricken novice to the pleasures of the vertical world.

To reach the Bushy Buttress follow the path up from the river to the Access Ledge on the Power Wall. Walk to the right along the Access Ledge to reach the Bushy Gully. Carry straight on across the bottom of the Bushy Gully to reach the Lower Tier or walk up the Bushy Gully for about 10 m and then turn right to access the ledge along the base of the Upper Tier.

An easier approach is to follow the path starting from the huts on the south bank. This crosses a small stream and then leads up diagonally left to the Lower Tier – see map on page 92. The climbs are listed in an upstream sequence from left to right.




## 1 A. BUSHY BUTTRESS : UPPER TIER

**1. Groovy Grunt (18) *****

FA: Jonathon Wigley; Gavin Peckham (17 May 2003)

Start at the arête where the Upper Tier swings sharply away from the river to form a short wall on one side of the Bushy Gully. Climb the narrow recess just to the right of the arête to reach a large ledge. Step over blocks to the right and then climb the prominent crack up past a 'Thank God' fig tree to the top. Protected by a few small wires in the recess, a big cam in the crack and a sling round the fig tree.

**2. Gauteng-a-leng (10) ****
FA: Greg Devine; Cheryl Devine; Dave Taylor (25 September 2004)

Start about 2 m to the left of 'Sexy Sardine'. Climb a blocky corner past a fig tree root. Get onto the headwall and climb up into the corner, exiting left.

**3. Sexy Sardine (15) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley (17 May 2003)

Start 6 m to the right of 'Groovy Grunt'. Climb the short but good crack to a large ledge – avoid the temptation to use a small tree for assistance! Climb the prominent left-facing corner at the back of the ledge. Well protected, mainly by fairly large cams.

**4. Winding Down (12) ****
FA: Richard Knott (25 October 1997)

Climb the first 4 m of 'Going Home' to reach the ledge. Step to the left and then climb a series of vegetated corners to finish 2 m left of 'Going Home'.

**5. Going Home (14) [C] ***
FA: Richard Knott; Jeff Shamley (25 October 1997)

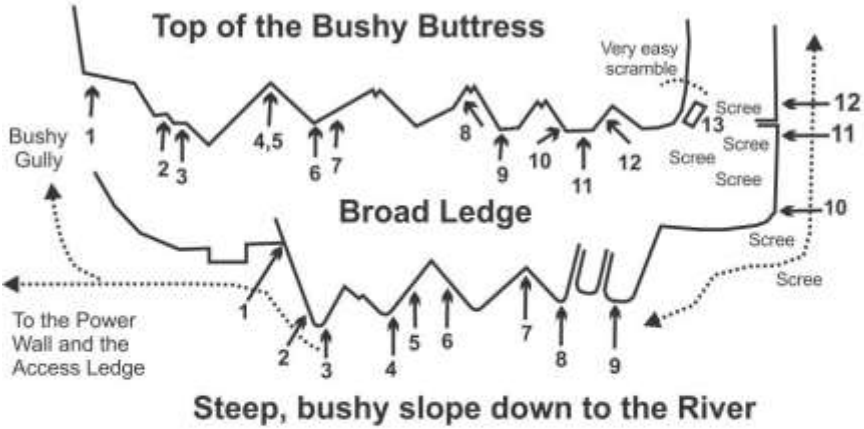
Start about 5 m to the right of 'Sexy Sardine' in a large open book with a crack up the back. Climb the open book up to a ledge. Continue up the excellent crack (with an interesting crux move) that splits the buttress from bottom to top. The chains can be easily accessed from above for top-roping

**6. Bats (10) [5B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Bruce Tomalin (06 January 2008)
About 3 m to the right of 'Going Home' is an arête. Start off the block at the base of the arête. Follow the bolts up to the chains on a blank, orange headwall.

## White Umfolozi River
## Bushy Buttress (Plan View)

Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved




**Some Routes on the Upper Tier**

1. Groovy Grunt (18)
2. Gauteng-a-leng (10)
3. Sexy Sardine (15)
4. Winding Down (12)
5. Going Home (14)
6. Bats (10)
7. Magic Mushroom (14/18)
8. Jungle Jane (14)
9. LBJ (13)
10. Wonder Bra (13)
11. Rats (09)
12. Cats (12)
13. Marshall's Monument - a tiny free-standing pillar of no significance whatsoever.

**Some Routes on the Lower Tier**

1. Snow White (14/18)
2. Oink (15)
3. Happy (13)
4. Dopey (10)
5. Grumpy (8)
6. Sleepy (9)
7. Doc (9)
8. Sneezy (9)
9. Bashful (9)
10. Ant Line (11)
11. Bee in the Bonnet (15)
12. Going on Seventeen (16)

**7. Magic Mushroom (14 / 18) [6B; C] *****

FA: Gavin Peckham; Bruce Tomalin (06 January 2008)

Start 1 m to the right of 'Bats' on the left-hand wall of a large corner. Climb a short face to reach a large ledge. Climb up onto a small ledge and continue up and left to the chains. The start is about 18 if you climb up the middle of the face on thin holds and about 14 if you use the blocky steps on the left.

**8. Jungle Jane (14) [C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Bruce Tomalin (07 January 2008)

About 6 m to the right of 'Magic Mushroom' is a big corner with a line of broken rock up the back. Start immediately left of the broken rock and climb up about 5 m to a sort of ledge – poorly protected. There are two possible finishes with good gear. Either move up tending right initially and then back left, or move up left using a good layaway crack.

**9. LBJ (13) [3B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Bruce Tomalin (06 January 2008)

Climb the short arête on the right of the 'Jungle Jane' corner.

**10. Wonder Bra (13) [3B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Bruce Tomalin (06 January 2008)

About 5 m to the right of 'LBJ' is another big corner with a fig tree overhanging the top. Climb the arête on the right of the corner. The arête starts above a large, protruding block with no visible means of support!

**11. Rats (09) **
FA: Gavin Peckham (19 December 2008)

Start just around to the right of the 'Wonder Bra' arête and just to the right of the protruding, wedged block. Climb the neat line of clean cracks to the top.

**12. Cats (12) [3B; C] **
FA: Gavin Peckham; Bruce Tomalin (06 January 2008)

This route is in the next big corner which is also the last one before the Upper Tier turns away from the river. It is about 5 m to the right of 'Rats'. Climb the line of bolts just left of the crack up the back of the corner.

Pick a grade – about 9 if you use the broken rock in the crack. About 11 if you climb straight up the bolts without using the broken rock in the crack. About 13 if you keep strictly to the left of the bolts.

The following routes are located about 50 m to the right of the previous routes. You can reach them by walking along the ledge between the Upper and Lower Tiers, past the small free-standing pillar – Marshall's Monument(*) on the corner and then around onto the side overlooking the hut.

(*)This pile of crud has been "climbed" by Derek Marshall who actually wanted to claim it as a "route" – they have no standards in the Eastern Cape!

It is probably easier to approach these routes by taking the path from the hut up to the Lower Tier. When you reach the Lower Tier, turn to the right and walk along the base of the crag past a couple of cairns to reach a cairn at the base of a short rock band. Scramble up this to reach the Upper Tier at the start of 'Arb'. Most of the following routes are marked by small white arrows and are listed from left to right.

**13. Jigsaw (09) ****

FA: Gavin Peckham; Ashleigh MacKenzie (03 Sept 2005)

About 50 m to the right of 'Marshall's Monument' there is a pale orange face that leans back at a friendly angle with several cracks. Climb the main crack line that splits the face from top to bottom.

**14. Arb (08) ***

FA: Gavin Peckham (03 September 2005)

Start 5 m to the right of 'Jigsaw'. Climb the short, narrow, grey face to the right of a small tree to reach a ledge. Move left and climb to the top passing to the left of the next tree.

**15. Rab (08) ***

FA: Gavin Peckham (24 September 2005)

Start 5 m to the right of 'Arb' in a recess behind some straggly Plumbago plants. Climb straight up the blocky recess to the top. The top part of this line coincides with the next route.

**16. Bra (10) ****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Ashleigh MacKenzie (03 Sept 2005)

Start about 3 m to the right of 'Rab' on the right-hand side of a small arête. Climb the short crack and then follow the easiest line to the top.

**17. Grunt (18) ****
"FA": Ashleigh MacKenzie; Gavin Peckham
(03 September 2005) (Top-roped only.)
About 15 m to the right of 'Bra' there is a short, steep, orange face split by two vertical cracks with a small overlap between them. Climb up using both cracks, but exiting via the one on the left.
This line has been replaced by Hallam's new line – see below.

**18. With Jammin' (17) ****
FA: Hallam Payne (31 May 2014)

Start as for 'Grunt' but use only the crack on the left, and the face to the left of that. Ab off the tree at the top.

**19, 20, 21. Three Little Pigs (9, 10, 9) ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (24 September 2005)

About 5 m to the right of 'Grunt' there is a small buttress of grey rock that is split by three neat cracks about 1 m apart from each other. Climb these crack lines.

**22. KYAG (14) ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (24 September 2005)
Immediately to the right of the previous routes there is a very obvious, short, smooth-sided, orange corner. When upward progress ceases, dyno for the good edge on the top of the right-hand face. Zero gear – not recommended unless you are on top-rope because if you miss the dyno you can KYAG!

## 1 B. BUSHY BUTTRESS : LOWER TIER

Unless otherwise stated, all the routes on the Lower Tier were first climbed by Gavin Peckham on 11 October 2002.

**1. Snow White (14 / 18) [5B; C] *** ** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham (11 October 2002)

From the bottom of the Bushy Gully, walk about 20 m to the right along the base of the Lower Tier until you reach a pronounced arête that runs up for about 10 m to a large fig tree at the top. This route takes the face to the left of the arête. Climb up to a clump of plants growing out of the face near the top of the crag. Traverse left for 2 m and then continue up to the chains. It is about 14 if you start off the top of the blocks on the left and 18 if you are determined to start from the bottom without using the blocks.

**2. Oink (15) [3B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (30 April 2006)

Climb the line just to the left of the arête on the right-hand side of the 'Snow White' face.

The following seven routes are named after Snow White's Seven Dwarfs because they are so short and easy!

**3. Happy (13) [4B; C] *** ** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham (11 October 2002)
Climb the line just to the right of the arête on the right-hand side of the 'Snow White' face.

**4. Dopey (10)**
About 2 m to the right of the 'Snow White' arête there is another very short arête. Climb the right-hand edge of this arête – after the take-off moves, it is a total non-event.

**5. Grumpy (08) ***
About 3 m to the right of the 'Dopey' arête there is a short open-book. Climb up the centre of the very short, pocketed face on the **left** of the open book.

**6. Sleepy (09) ***
Climb the centre of the face on the **right** of the open book.

**7. Doc (09) ***
About 4 m to the right of the 'Grumpy' / 'Sleepy' open book there is another small open book with a wide crack up the back. Stem up this very short open-book and exit to the left.

**8. Sneezy (09) ***
About 3 m to the right of the 'Doc' open book there are three small adjacent arêtes. The middle arête is undercut and 'hanging'. Climb the broken arête on the left of the central, undercut arête.

**9. Bashful (09) ***
Climb the arête on the right of the central, undercut arête.

**10. Ant Line (11) ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (11 October 2002)

About 50 m upstream of the Bushy Gully, the Lower Tier of Bushy Buttress turns a corner and runs away at right-angles to the river. This route climbs the arête on the corner. Climb up ledges to reach the short arête which is climbed to the top.

**11. Bee In The Bonnet (15) *****
FA: Gareth Frost; Darryl Margetts (25 September 2004)

Start about 5 m to the right of the 'Ant Line' arête and about 2 m to the left of a wide crack / chimney. Climb the face past some white bird excrement to an undercut crack near the top of the recess. Continue up the crack passing just left of a large fig tree and then continue up the open book to the top.

**12. Going On Seventeen (16) [5B; C] ******
FA: Hallam Payne (24 Sep 2012)

Start 3 m right of a wide crack / chimney. Climb up and onto a large protruding block. Continue up, tending right to the chains. This route crosses the next route on top of the protruding block.

**Beware of loose rock when topping out on the next 5 routes.**

**13. Pedling** (sic) **Our Wares (13) ***
FA: Gareth Frost; Darryl Margetts (25 September 2004)

Start about 2 m to the right of the 'Going on 17' bolts. Climb the face diagonally left towards the right-hand end of an overlap formed by a protruding block. Move up right of the block until it is possible to step left onto the top of the block. Move further left to a recess which is followed to the top.

**14. Encouraging Debait** (sic) **(15) ***
FA: Gareth Frost; Darryl Margetts (25 September 2004)

Start about 1 m right of 'Pedling Our Wares'. Climb directly up a finger crack, over a bulging block and into the bottom of a bushy recess. Climb the clean face on the left of the recess.

**15. The Marshall Approach (18) ***
FA: Gareth Frost; Darryl Margetts (25 September 2004)

Start about 1 m to the right of 'Encouraging Debait'. Climb up to the slightly overhanging start of a neat, right-tending groove / corner. Pull through the small overlap into the corner and climb the corner up to a large fig tree. Move leftwards onto a block and up to the top.

**16. Bolty And Drilly Do Trad (13) **
FA: Gareth Frost; Darryl Margetts (25 September 2004)

Start about 3 m to the right of 'The Marshall Approach'. Climb the obvious, left-tending corner to the top of a pile of blocks. Follow the broken, right-tending crack line to the top.

**17. Ingram's Technique (14) ***
FA: Gareth Frost; Darryl Margetts (25 September 2004)

Start on the face about 1 m to the right of 'Bolty and Drilly Do Trad' and just left of a tree. Climb a short recess capped by an over-hanging block. Move out right to reach the start of an excellent, left-tending dihedral that goes to the top.

**18. Solitaire (12) ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (31 July 2005)

A prominent prow juts out about 5 m to the right of 'Ingram's Technique'. Just to the right of the prow there is a crack line with a tree growing horizontally out of the adjacent face and about 3 m up. Climb the crack past the tree to reach the base of a recess which is climbed to the top. Very well protected. Ab off the chains on 'Little Honda'.

**19. Little Honda (12) [4B; C] *** (Retro-bolted)**
FA: Gavin Peckham (31 July 2005)

Start about 3 m to the right of 'Solitaire' and just to the right of a vertical crack line. Climb up the centre of the narrow grey face that leans back at an easy angle. To keep the climb interesting, try and keep to the centre of the narrow face.

**20. Yeti (13) [3B; C] ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (30 April 2006)

Climb the line of bolts 2 m left of 'Abdominal Noman'.

**21. Abdominal Noman (13) [3B; C] ** (Retro-bolted)**
FA: Gavin Peckham (11 October 2002)

About 30 m beyond the 'Ant Line' corner there is a deep recess / corner with a large the pyramid-like block at the base and a fig tree at the top. Start 3 m to the left of the recess. Climb the wrinkled orange face just to the left of a crack.

**22. Shoehorn (09) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (31 July 2005)

Start about 1 m to the right of 'Abdominal Noman'. Climb straight up the narrow, grey, wrinkly face directly below the fig tree. Top out just left of the fig tree.

**23. Akkedis (08) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (11 October 2002)

Start about 1 m to the right of the previous route. Climb the narrow, knobbly, grey face and top out just to the right of the fig tree.

**24. Adios Amigo (14) [3B; C] **** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham (11 October 2002)

About 5 m to the right of the previous two routes there is a large, sloping, V-shaped recess capped by a roof with a fig tree growing on it. Climb the short orange face just to the left of the recess – thin and trickier than it looks.

**25. All Aboard (09) [2B; C] **** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham (11 October 2002)

Climb the left-tending grey ramp on the left-hand side of the capped recess mentioned above. The path to the camp site heads diagonally left down the hill from the base of this recess.

**26. Aardvark (08) [2B; C] **** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham (11 October 2002)

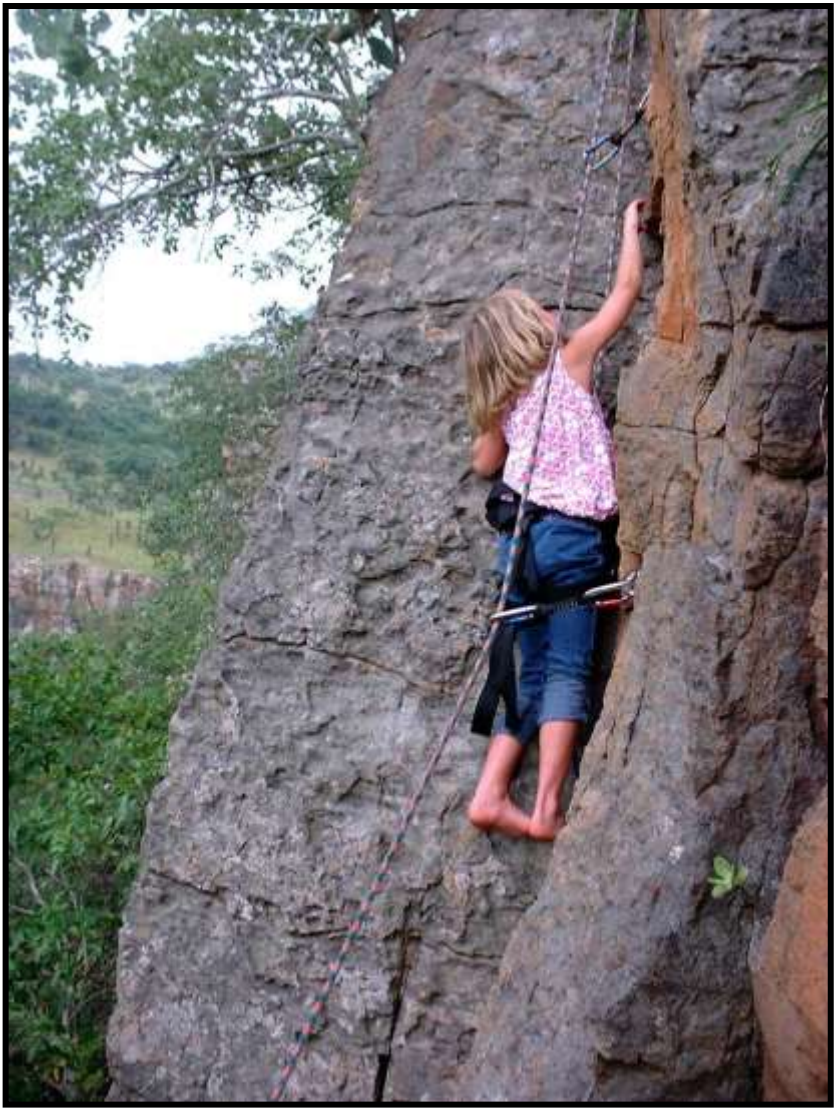
About 4 m to the right of the previous route there is a right-facing, left-tending open book with a slightly overhanging block at the top. The rock is wrinkled and grey on the left-hand side but orange on the right-hand side. Climb this easy recess sticking mainly to the grey face on the left.

**27. Début (09) ***
FA: Dalena van Jaarsveld; Gavin Peckham (01 July 2005)

Start about 5 m to the right of the 'Aardvark' open book and climb the crack at the back of the obvious recess that runs to the top of the short face.

**28. Route With A View (09) ***
FA: Dalena van Jaarsveld; Gavin Peckham (01 July 2005)

Start about 2 m to the right of the 'Début' recess and bridge up between the face and the adjacent column of rock. After you top out, look upstream for a superb view!



The White Umfolozi has grades for everybody.
Ingrid Tomalin (6 yrs) styling up Aardvark (8)

## 2. POWER WALL – see plan view on page 106.

There is a long, generally wide, vegetated ledge (The Access Ledge) that runs across the base of the Power Wall from the Bushy Gully to the Rocky Gully – i.e. from the Bushy Buttress to the Upper Warrior Wall. The Power Wall lies above this ledge and the Primeval Wall lies below it. In the top-centre of the photo below, half way up the Power Wall, is the Grass Ledge.

← Power Wall

← Grass Ledge

← Power Wall

← Access Ledge

← Primeval Wall

← Casanova Cove

← Umfolozi River

Photo: Anthony van Tonder

The Access Ledge is easily approached by following the path from the huts and around the base of the Bushy Buttress. Alternatively, the Access Ledge may be approached by a scramble that starts at river level about 50 m upstream of the power lines and is more or less at right angles to the river. At first it winds up a rocky ridge with no discernible path. After the first ~30 m on rock the scramble continues as a vague, steep path and reaches the Access Ledge near 'Solar Power' – a cairn marks this spot.

The Power Wall rises for about 40 m above the Access Ledge. It includes two large, vegetated ledges. The **Tree Ledge** is directly below the power lines and lies about 15 m above the Access Ledge. Just upstream from the Tree Ledge, and at the same height, is the **Grass Ledge**. A narrow, broken rock ledge connects the Tree and Grass Ledges. This makes it possible to cross over from one ledge to the other. The quickest way onto the Tree or Grass Ledges is via the route '**Easy Access**' (11). This route lies directly under the most upstream of the set of three power lines and tops out on the rock ledge that links the Tree and Grass Ledges.

After topping out on the Power Wall, you can walk off to the left, around the eastern end of the wall where it peters out, and then back down the **Rocky Gully**. Alternatively, you can walk off to the right and then down the **Bushy Gully**. If you don't like walking, there are several possible abseil points.

The routes on the Power Wall are generally listed in a downstream sequence from right to left and are grouped as follows:


**2A.** Routes located **Upstream** of the Grass Ledge pg 107

**2B.** **From** the Access Ledge **up to** the Grass Ledge pg 112

**2C.** **From** the Grass Ledge **up to** the top of the Crag pg 114

**2D.** **From** the Access Ledge **up to** the Tree Ledge pg 118

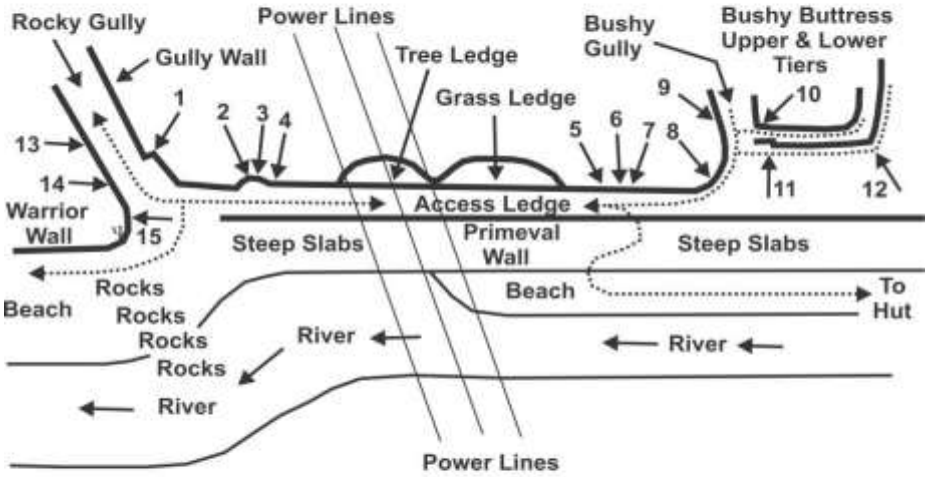
**2E.** **From** the Tree Ledge **up to** the top of the Crag pg 120

**2F.** Routes located **Downstream** of the Tree Ledge pg 123

# White Umfolozi River
## Power Wall (Plan view)

Rough sketch - not to scale !
Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved

**For more detail, see separate maps for the Tree Ledge and the Grass Ledge**




**Some of the Routes**

1. Alley Cat (16) and the start of Day Tripper (17)
2. The Powers That Be (19)
3. Return To Power (18)
4. Sensation (22)
5. Anonymous (15)
6. Half Man Half Biscuit (17)
7. Solar Power (20)
8. Harry (13)
9. Sonic Hedgehog (11)
10. Groovy Grunt (18)
11. Snow White (14)
12. Ant Line (11)
13. Deadly Goldfish (11)
14. Flaming Haggis (16)
15. Scorpion (14)

**Warning:** When scrambling about on the Tree and Grass Ledges please be careful not to dislodge loose rocks or boulders. There have been a couple of 'near misses' when climbers have caused rocks to fall near people walking along the Access Ledge or along the river below. Also, the Access Ledge is generally wide and safe, but there is a narrow, sloping section where a careless stumble could precipitate you 30 m to the rocks below.

## 2A. Routes Upstream of the Grass Ledge

The first 6 routes listed below are at the extreme upstream end of the Power Wall where it forms one edge of the Bushy Gully. The routes may be reached by following the steep path up from the river to the Access Ledge and then turning to the right and walking upstream along the base of the crag. Alternatively, there is path starting from the hut on the south bank that crosses the stream and leads up to the Lower Tier of the Bushy Buttress – see map on page 92. Follow this and then walk downstream along the base of the Bushy Buttress until you reach the Power Wall. 'Tom', 'Dick' and 'Harry' are located more or less where the Power Wall swings away from the river to form the Bushy Gully, whilst 'Porcupine Pie' and the 'Sonic Hedgehog' are about half way up the Bushy Gully.

**1. Porcupine Pie (13) ****
FA: Jonathon Wigley (17 May 2003)
Start about half way up the Bushy Gully, more or less opposite 'Groovy Grunt'. Looking up from the start of the route gives the impression of a small pillar. Climb straight up the middle of the short, clean face and through a small overlap to the top. There is no gear – solo or top-rope using the chains at the top of the next route.

**2. Sonic Hedgehog (11) [C] *****
FA: Gavin Peckham (17 May 2003)

About 3 m to the left of 'Porcupine Pie' there is an excellent right-facing corner that leans over at a beginner-friendly angle. Climb this to the top. Well protected. For top roping, the chains can be easily accessed by a scramble from higher up the gully.

The next three routes are accessed by starting near 'Sonic Hedgehog' and then walking to the left along a vegetated ledge.

**3. Carry On Climbing (09) ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (29 April 2006)

Walk left from 'Sonic Hedgehog' onto the broad, vegetated ledge above 'Tom', 'Dick' and 'Harry'. Start at the obvious crack line near the top of 'Dick' and follow the easiest line more or less straight up towards a rock covered with bright green lichen. Finish up the centre of a narrow slab just left of the lichen covered rock. The huge flakes of green lichen are quite eye-catching!

**4. Porcelain Ridge (12) ***
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer Sue Thomas (19 December 2016)

Walk further left along the ledge from the previous route to two trees and some vegetation situated below a gully or recess which runs all the way to the top of the crag. Climb the blunt arête above on pale coloured rock in an exposed position. Good quality rock and good protection.

**5. Just The Biscuit (10) ****
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer Sue Thomas (19 December 2016)

Start at the same place as 'Porcelain Ridge'. Climb 3 m up the gully until beneath a nettle tree. Move left into a recess and then climb the left sloping ramp to the point where it stops. Step left and continue up the adjacent recess to the top. An excellent climb at the grade.

The following routes start just "downhill" from 'Sonic Hedgehog' near the upstream end of the 'Access Ledge'.

**6. Tom (10) ****
FA: Richard Knott (27 June 1998)

Just downstream from the start of the Bushy Gully but before a large cave, there is a small, neat, orange wall. About midway along the base of the wall there are some small, step-like ledges. Start at the right-hand end of the small wall. Balance up a smooth slab then continue straight up to the top. Walk off along the ledge to the right and then down the Bushy Gully. (Nobody seems to know quite where this route goes! )

**7. Dick (11) [5B; C] ******** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham; Richard Knott (27 June 1998)

Start up the small, stepped ledges mentioned above. Climb the smooth slab above, and then continue straight up steeper rock to the chains.

**8. Harry (13) [6B; C] ******** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham (27 June 1998)

Start about 2 m left of the 'steps' mentioned above. Pull up onto the face and follow the line of bolts straight up to the top. The original solo ascent ducked off diagonally left along an easier line to avoid thinner, unprotected climbing on the top part of the current bolted line.

**9. Anaconda (15) [C] ***
FA: Hallam Payne, Gavin Peckham (31 May 2014)

Start below a fig tree at the right-hand edge of a large cave and just to the left of 'Harry'. Climb up to the tree and then around, or up through, a small roof. The tree is definitely 'on route', for protection and / or holds. Continue left and up, following the former 'Harry' ending, to finish about three metres left of the 'Harry' chains. For top-roping, the 'Anaconda' chains are easily accessible by a few moves to the left from the chains on 'Harry'.

Between 'Anaconda' and 'Time Warp' there is a large cave.
There are no routes through the roof of this cave as yet.

**8. Time Warp (18) [9B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (08 November 2008)

Start about 5 m downstream from the big cave. Climb the line of bolts up to a ledge about 2/3 of the way up. Climb up onto the left-hand end the ledge and then take a long, airy step far out onto the arête on the left. Easy climbing up the arête leads to the chains. Alternatively, handrail across to the right-hand end of the ledge and climb the blunt arête on the right. "It's just a step to the left or a jump to the right."

**9. Solar Power (20, 17) ***
FA: Jonathon Wigley; Mike Ward (10 August 1997)

A couple of metres to the left of the 'Time Warp' bolts there is a broken overhang. A prickly pear is (currently) visible on a small ledge about 15 m above this point. Running through the overhang are two crack lines.

Pitch 1. Climb up and through the overhang via the right-hand crack and then follow this crack line up the face above and belay on a small ledge just left of the prickly pear.

Pitch 2. Traverse 2 m left then climb up to three small, right-tending roofs stacked one above another. Move out right under the roofs then break through and climb the face to the top. Avoid the easy gully on the left.

**10. Half Man, Half Biscuit (16, 17) ***
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gerald Camp (25 October 1997)

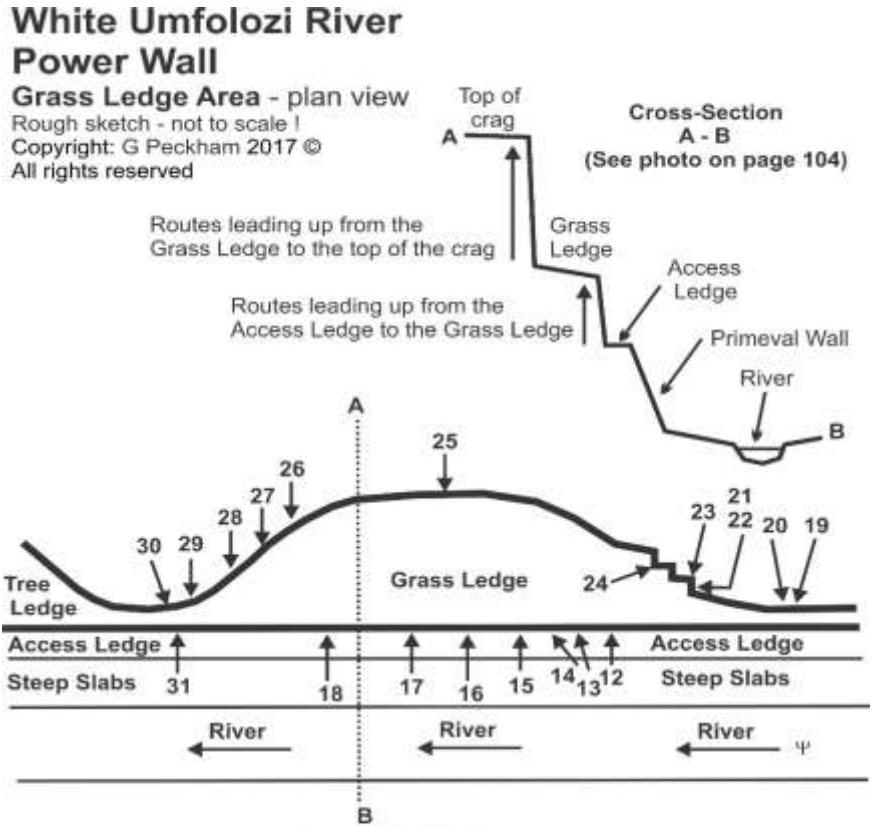
Pitch 1: Start 1 m to the left of 'Solar Power' and pull through the left-hand crack in the left sloping blocky overhang. Step left into a recess which is followed up to a ledge.

Pitch 2: Continue straight up the face past some suspect rock to an overhanging nose. Pull directly through this and continue up easier ground to the top. **Please note:** It now turns out that this pitch probably coincides with the top half of the next route.

**11. Anonymous (17) *****

FA: (10 Aug 1997) Anonymous – at the request of the climber (MW) who was suffering a severe identity crisis at the time!

There is a narrow recess at the left-hand end of the 'Solar Power' / 'Half Man, Half Biscuit' roof. Pull strenuously up into this recess then climb to the top tending left most of the way.




**Some of the Routes**

12. Nameless (14)
13. Crackerjack (16)
14. Dynamite (20)
15. Cul-de-Sac (16)
16. Skabenga (15)
17. Relative Youth (19)
18. Purple Sea of Doubt (23)
19. Right of Way (16)
20. Way To Go (15)
21. Get Cracking (15)
22. A Fine Line (16)
23. The Easy Way Out (12)
24. The Onesler (15 / 17)
25. Chalk and Cheese (19)
26. Rock Around the Block (15)
27. Colour Contrast (15)
28. Flat Bat Tetris (21)
29. Sky Light (16)
30. Sky Walker (17)
31. Easy Access (11)

## 2B. Routes from the Access Ledge up to the Grass Ledge (See plan views on pages 106 and 111)

**12. Nameless (14) ****

FA: Richard Knott; Jeff Shamley (25 October 1997)

Directly below the Grass Ledge is a large roof overhanging the Access Ledge. Start just left of the downstream end of the roof and climb up from the Access Ledge to the Grass Ledge on broken rock, up a sort of rounded arête.

**13. Crackerjack (16) [C] ******

FA: Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley (25 October 1997)

Start 3 m left of 'Nameless' at a smooth, left-sloping ramp / slab. Climb the ramp using the superb crack running up the corner on the right-hand edge of the slab. Excellent gear.

**14. Dynamite (20) [6B; C] *****

FA: Anthony van Tonder (18 October 2008)

Start 1 m left of the 'Crackerjack' corner and climb the line of bolts towards the left-hand edge of the slab. Finish at the 'Crackerjack' chains.

**15. Cul-de-Sac (16) *****

FA: Jonathon Wigley; Gavin Peckham (25 October 1997)

3 m left of 'Crackerjack' is a second smooth, sloping ramp / slab. A block obstructs the top of the ramp. Climb the ramp and then pull over the block to exit.

**16. Skabenga (15) [5B, C] *****

FA: Gavin Peckham (28 June 2015)

Left of 'Cul de Sac' and just to the right of the obvious bolted line 'Relative Youth', there is a neat, orange face with a fig tree half way up and a corner on its right. Start from the top of the blocks at the base of the route. Climb up and onto the vegetated, triangular ledge to the right of the fig tree. The fig tree is 'on route' if you are desperate. Climb the corner to the chains. Better than it looks. There is more than one way to skin a cat.

**17. Relative Youth (19) [5B; C] ***
FA: Hallam Payne (2 October 2008)

Start midway between 'Cul de Sac' and 'Easy Access' – i.e. about 15 m downstream from 'Dynamite'. Stand on a large free-standing block at the base of the crag. Pull up onto the face and head up to the right of the bolts on small but positive holds. Finish just left of a large flake at the top.

**18. Purple Sea Of Doubt (23) [6B; C] ***
FA: Hallam Payne (29 April 2017)

A short, awkward line between 'Easy Access' and 'Relative Youth'. Start off the blocks and boulder up to the obvious hold, then twist and turn your way up the corner to the fourth bolt, step across the face, and up to finish. A hard start if you're short.

Rodney Owen leading Sky Walker (17)

Photo: Anthony van Tonder

## 2C. Routes from the Grass Ledge up to the top of the Crag (See plan views on pages 106 and 111)

**19. Right Of Way (16) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley (25 October 1997)

Walk to the upstream end of the Grass Ledge. Where the Grass Ledge peters out, continue in an upstream direction for about 5 m along the narrow, rock ledge that continues at the same level as the Grass Ledge. Start at the base of a large, shallow, right-tending recess. Climb the right tending recess and then finish straight up.

**20. Way To Go (15) ***
FA: Richard Knott; Jeff Shamley (25 October 1997)

Start at the same point as 'Right of Way', but climb a vague recess that tends left and then finish straight up.

**21. Get Cracking (15) ***
FA: Jonathon Wigley; Gavin Peckham (25 October 1997)

This climb follows the arête at the upstream end of the Grass Ledge, just to the right of 'The Easy Way Out' corner. Continue up the arête, until it is possible to gain the start of an excellent off-width crack that leads straight up the face to the top.

**22. A Fine Line (16) ** (See photo on page 115.)**
FA: Jonathon Wigley; Gavin Peckham (06 June 1998)

Climb up the centre of the narrow face between 'The Easy Way Out' and 'Get Cracking'. An arbitrary eliminate, but good climbing if you avoid trespassing on the adjacent routes.

**23. The Easy Way Out (12) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley (25 October 1997)

Near the upstream end of the Grass Ledge are two distinct corners. A small, square roof caps the one on the left. The one on the right has a crack running up the back of the corner for its full length. Climb this corner to the top. There are two large, suspect looking blocks on the way up. They have defied our efforts to dislodge them but treat them with caution anyway.

Above: Rodney Owen on A Fine Line.

Left: Gavin Peckham on The Easy Way Out.

Photos:
Anthony van Tonder

**24. Once-ler (15) ***
FA: Robbie Dyer; Gavin Peckham; JJ Wigley (26 April 1999)

Start just left of the blocky arête located five metres downstream from 'The Easy Way Out'. Work your way up onto the arête and follow this to the top. If you start on the arête and stick to it the grade is probably about 17 and protection low down is sparse.

**25. Chalk And Cheese (19) ***
"FA": Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley (06 June 1998)
(Top-roped with 2 m of slack to simulate a lead! Needs bolts.)

Where the Grass Ledge is at its widest, there is an orange face. A small broken column of whitish rock reaches about halfway up the face. Climb to the top of the column using the crack on its left edge (12). From here, step out left onto the face and then follow the very thin, left tending crack line up the steep orange face to a large ledge. Ab off the tree.

**26. Rock Around The Block (15) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley (06 June 1998)

About 15 m left of 'Chalk and Cheese' is an obvious large, orange open-book that starts half way up the face and leads to the top. About 3 m to the right of this open-book, and at the bottom of the face, is another, smaller orange recess. Climb to the top of the recess and then over a white, rectangular block (crux) to gain the base of another open-book with a good crack up the back. Climb this to the top.

**27. Colour Contrast (15) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley (06 June 1998)

About 5 m to the right of the downstream end of the Grass Ledge there is an orange recess. Climb this recess then continue straight on up the crack-line that runs through the top of the recess (crux). Pass just right of a small fig tree and continue up the white face above, tending to the left.

**28. Flat Bat Tetris (21) [8B; C] ***
FA: Hallam Payne (16 June 2014)

Start towards the downstream end of the grass ledge. Take the bolted line between 'Colour Contrast' and 'Sky Light'. A fun route that gets thinner as you go up. Try not to dislodge the block just below the small roof - you'll disturb the bats and flatten your belayer.

**29. Sky Light (16) ***
FA: Jonathon Wigley; Gavin Peckham (26 October 1997)

From the top of 'Easy Access', move about 3 m to the right along the narrow, broken rock ledge that connects the Tree and Grass Ledges. Start directly below a large V-shaped gap in the roof above. Climb straight up a recess and through the V-shaped gap in the roof to reach a belay in a large recess with a small tree. You can ab from the tree or continue to the top on easy rock.

**30. Sky Walker (17) ****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley (26 October 1997)

Climb 'Easy Access' and then continue up, tending slightly left and heading for the left-hand edge of the roof on 'Sky Light'. Climb up past the left-hand end of the roof until it is possible to traverse 3 m to the right, across the slab that forms the roof. This is most exciting if you traverse with your toes on the lip of the roof, but you can traverse more easily about a metre higher if you wish to avoid the thrill of an airy traverse. At the right hand edge of the slab, climb up strenuously to gain a crack line with good grips. Do not whimp off into the large 'Sky Light' belay recess after the first couple of moves, but continue up the crack line on good holds to reach the base of a short, white face. Climb up the middle of the face on tiny holds (crux – no gear – escape to the right if necessary). Careful rope work is necessary to avoid excessive drag. It is possible to make an uncomfortable stance (2 climbers only) before starting the traverse. Ab takes you back down to the Access Ledge.

## 2D. Routes from the Access Ledge up to the Tree Ledge

(See plan views on pages 106 and 121)

**31. Easy Access (11) [C] ******

FA: Gavin Peckham (26 October 1997)

This neat route is directly below the most upstream of the set of three overhead power lines. Making use of the partly concealed layaway crack in the right-hand wall, climb the huge crack that runs up diagonally left to the upstream end of the Tree Ledge.

**Note: 'Easy Access' is the usual means of access to routes that start from the Tree or Grass Ledges**. The bolts on 'Insertion' can just be reached on the left if necessary.

**32. Insertion (14) [3B, C] ****

FA: Hallam Payne; Gavin Peckham (5 April 2015)

Climb the short face between 'Easy Access' and 'Barking Mad'. Use the chains at the top of 'Easy Access'.

**Note:** The sole purpose of bolting 'Insertion' was to give sport climbers safe access to the bolted lines on the Tree and Grass Ledges.

**33. Barking Mad (14) ****

FA: Gavin Peckham; Hallam Payne; Julia Colvin (8 Aug 2014)

To the left of 'Easy Access' there are two crack lines each of which hosts a small tree. Climb the crack closest to 'Easy Access' which harbours the larger of the two small trees. The tree is 'on route' but more elegant climbers will confine their attentions to the rock alone.

**34. Monkey People (16) ****

FA: Hallam Payne; Julia Colvin (8 August 2014)

Climb the crack with the smaller tree just to the left of 'Barking Mad'. The tree is 'in' or 'out' depending on your preference.

**35. Step-Down (10) ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (26 October 1997)

Climb the blocky recess 5 m left of 'Easy Access'.

**36. Step-Up (11) ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (26 October 1997)

Climb the blocky recess 3 m left of 'Step-Down'.

**37. Short Circuit (10) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Eugene Parsons (23 November 1997)

Start 8 m left of 'Step-Up'. Climb diagonally left up a broken recess, then continue straight up to the Tree Ledge.

**38. Transformer (18) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Eugene Parsons (23 November 1997)

Start 8 m right of 'Pylon' and climb diagonally left up a short (4 m) steep face (crux). Step left into the base of a large recess in which a small tree is growing. Climb easily to the top of the recess. There is no gear low down where you really need it !

**39. Pylon (14) [C] ****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Richard Knott (09 August 1997)

Start directly beneath the most downstream line in the set of 3 overhead power lines. Climb the recess that leads straight up to the downstream end of the Tree Ledge.

## 2E. Routes from the Tree Ledge up to the top of the Crag (See plan view on pages 106 and 121)

**40. Bats In My Belfry (15) ***
FA: Richard Knott; Gavin Peckham (09 August 1997)

A few metres left of the upstream end of the Tree Ledge is an obvious narrow recess. Start strenuously up the recess (crux) and then follow this line to the top of the crag. The line is better than it looks and is on clean rock all the way even 'though you have to squeeze past bushes here and there.

**41. Winding Umfolozi (18) ***
FA: Trish Stoops; John Crumley (08 June 2002)

Start about 5 to 10 m to the right of 'Power Line'. Climb up onto the obvious block (crux – aid by pulling up on a small wire if necessary). Follow a broken crack system up then tend to the right until the line reaches the same large vegetated ledge as 'Bats in My Belfry'.
**Note:** Nobody seems to know exactly where this route goes.

**42. Call Girl (17) [11B; C] ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (5 April 2015)

This is the new name for 'Power Line' which has finally been bolted and properly opened. Layback up the corner crack located close to the downstream end of the Tree Ledge to gain a big rock ledge about 8 m higher up. Take a couple of steps to the right and then follow the bolts up the face above. Reachy in places.

**43. Red Legged Bastard (18) [C] ****
FA: Hallam Payne (18 November 2014)

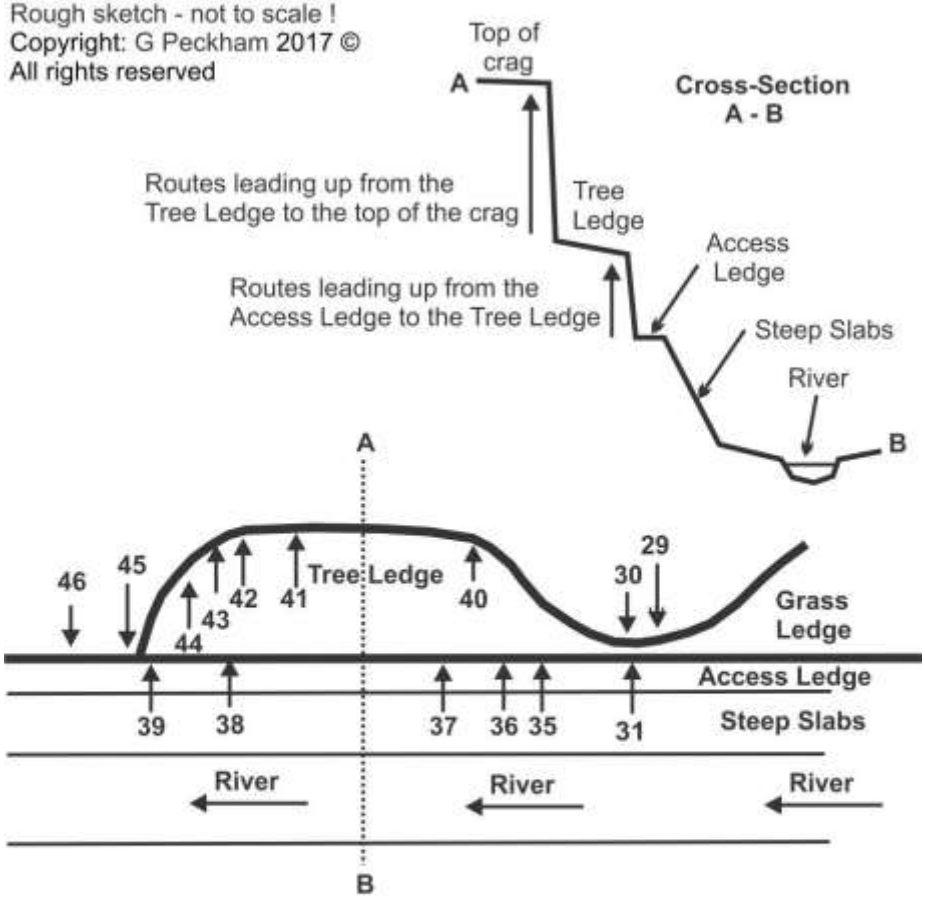
Start at the downstream end of the tree ledge, 2 m left of the 'Call Girl' corner. Take a direct line up the short hand crack on the left, and then follow the obvious shallow corner up to the chains on 'Siyadiliva'. An excellent, well-protected line

# White Umfolozi River Power Wall

## Tree Ledge Area - plan view

Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved




**Some of the Routes**

29. Sky Light (16)
30. Sky Walker (17)
31. Easy Access (11)
35 Step Down (10)
36. Step Up (11)
37. Short Circuit (10)
38. Transformer (18)
39. Pylon (12)
40. Bats in My Belfry (15)
41. Winding Umfolozi (18)
42. Call Girl (17)
43. Red Legged Bastard (18)
44. Siyadiliva (21)
45. Jamludi (26)
46. Sensation (22)

**44. Siyadiliva (21) [11B; C] ******
FA: Hallam Payne (5 April 2015)

Start at the extreme downstream end of the Tree Ledge about 5m left of, and around the arête from, 'Red-legged Bastard'. Follow the bolts up the shallow corner, through an overlap, and up the face to the chains of 'R-LB', keeping left of that route all the way to the top.

**45. Jamludi (26) [19B; C] ******* 37 m
Closed Project FA: Hallam Payne ( XX ZZZZ 2022)

Immediately downstream of the Tree Ledge. Start up the arête 2 m left of 'Pylon'. Keep left of the arête until after the fourth bolt (strenuous), then move right, across the broken rock, up though the small roof, and follow the bolts to the top, moving left and right as dictated by sections of fragile or blank-looking rock. Thin and strenuous in places, but with a sit-down rest near the top. **Note:** Unless you have a 70+ m rope, **do not** try to lower or abseil back to the Access Ledge. Instead, abseil to the Tree Ledge and then abseil off the chains at the top of 'Pylon'.

## 2F. Routes Downstream of the Tree Ledge

### 46. Sensation (22) [18B; 2B] ***** (No chains.)

FA: Gerald Camp (1994)

Start on the Access Ledge about 5 m upstream of a large fig tree at the base of the main crag. Locate the bolts a few metres left of 'Jamludi' and follow them up this stunning 36 m line. Near the top is an open book. From the top of this, step out to the right and around the corner to easier ground. **Note:** You **cannot** lower or ab off, even with a 60 m rope. You must top out and walk off.

### 47. Return To Power (18) ***

FA: Daniel Ryding; Neil McQueen (1992)

About 30 m downstream from the power lines is a very large, clean recess which runs to the top of the crag (40 m). The recess is capped by a prominent lime green boulder which can be seen from river level but not from the base of the climb.

Follow the line of least resistance up to a small recess from which you move right around a nose. Continue up past a bird nesting area to a stance at the bottom of a flaring crack.

Climb the crack tending left over a couple of loose blocks to a quite prominent pea-pod groove. Climb this, then on up the arête on green boulders, heading for the lime-green objective.

### 48. The Powers That Be (19) *****

FA: Jonathon Wigley; Gavin Peckham (04 May 1997)

Start in the same large recess as 'Return to Power'. Climb straight up the centre of the recess on good layaway holds. Continue straight up and mantle (tricky) onto a small, protruding ledge about 10 m up. From the mantelshelf, bypass the unprotected open book above by traversing delicately to the left for 2 m and then around a corner to reach a broken recess. Climb this for about 3 m to reach a small roof. From a position up under the roof, exit right (crux) to regain the main recess. Continue more easily up the broken recess for a couple of meters to reach a tiny (optional) stance. From here climb the 3 m right-tending fist crack and then move out left to the under-cling flake on the left wall. Climb the off-width crack formed by the left-hand edge of the flake and then scramble to the top.

**49. Tata Ma' Chance Direct (20, 20) ****
FA: Andrew Porter; Rance McIntyre (15 June 2003)

Pitch 1. (20) Start to the left of 'The Powers that Be' beneath a layback finger crack running through roofs of purple rock. Pull up through two roofs then climb diagonally left to reach a sloping ledge.

Pitch 2. (20) Pull up strenuously onto the ramp above. Climb 10 m to an overhanging corner. Traverse delicately to the arête on the right and below a block. Move to the right of the block and then up on the exposed arête past a shiny peg. Move left up a blocky recess to gain the face above and finish straight up.

Pitch 1 gives an excellent start, a more direct line and a more consistent grade than the following route. This line was first spotted and climbed by Andrew Porter who eventually backed off the crux move of the second pitch due to an absence of gear.

Gavin Raubenheimer then placed a peg on top rope and opened the route starting from the 'Day Tripper Ledge'. With the peg in place, Andrew returned and opened his original line using his original, direct start.

**50. Tata Ma' Chance (16, 20) ***
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gerald Camp (13 September 2003)

This line runs along under the overhangs that under-cut the 'Day Tripper' face. The overhangs slope up diagonally to the right and peter out at the 'Day Tripper' arête which is then followed to the top.

Pitch 1. (16) Start from the same ledge as 'Day Tripper'. Step down 2 m on the right and move around a corner into a recess. Traverse diagonally up and to the right to reach a small stance on the arête.

Pitch 2. (20) (Same as the previous route.) Pull up strenuously onto the ramp above. Climb 10 m to an overhanging corner. Traverse delicately to the arête on the right and below a block. Move to the right of the block and then up on the exposed arête past a shiny peg. Move left up a blocky recess to gain the face above and finish straight up.

**51. Day Tripper (17) *****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Richard Knott (07 September 1997)

From a point about half way up the Rocky Gully walk out to the right along a vegetated ledge to reach the base of a prominent corner. Alternatively, start from the Access Ledge, about 10 m upstream of the Rocky Gully between the Power and Warrior Walls and scramble 5 m up a huge left-sloping crack. Either approach ends at the base of a prominent 40 m high corner with a white-streaked block about 5 m up.

The RD, in a nutshell, is: Climb the corner to the block then make a rising traverse to the right, all the way across the face to the arête on the far (right-hand) side of the face. Climb the arête to the top. A more detailed description is as follows:

Make a strenuous start up the crack in the corner and continue up to the white-streaked block where there is bomber gear. With your feet at a level just below the base of the block, traverse very delicately to the right for 3 m to a small, rectangular recess. Move up diagonally right into a secure, square recess that is currently home to a small bush. Exit this recess to the right (tricky) then continue traversing to the right, tending slightly upwards (thin) to reach a secure stance at the base of a large, orange recess 3/4 of the way across the face. (Optional belay here).

From the right-hand side of the stance, climb the right-slanting recess that leads out onto the arête on the far (right-hand) side of the undercut face. From here, climb easily to the top, keeping just left of the arête most of the way. Finish straight up a crack line a few metres left of the arête.

This stunning 45 m line is adequately protected. Careful rope work is required to climb this line as a single pitch. Jugs towards the top contrast with the delicate traverse. The top of the Upper Warrior Wall forms a comfortable balcony from which an audience may obtain a comfortable view of the leader's antics!

**Variation**: Eric Penman; Dylan Salt (09 September 2001) Climb the corner until just **above** the white-streaked block and then traverse out horizontally to the right to reach the same large, orange belay recess mentioned above. Continue as above. Somewhat easier, but less exciting than the original line.

Climbers on Pitch 1 of 'Day Tripper'.

Climber on Pitch 2 of 'Day Tripper'. Photos: A van Tonder

**52. Alley Cat (16) ***

FA: Gavin Peckham; Richard Knott (07 September 1997)

Start as for 'Day Tripper' but move awkwardly up past the white streaked block and follow the corner to the top. Towards the top, do not exit up the scramble on the left but continue straight up to the top via the face on the right. Well protected and better than it looks!

Hallam Payne opening his first bolted line,
Relative Youth (19) pg 113.
Photo: Anthony van Tonder

## 3. PRIMEVAL WALL

The Primeval Wall is effectively the base of the Power Wall. It fills the gap between the river and the Access Ledge on the Power Wall. The climbable section of the wall is immediately upstream of a small sandy beach known as Casanova Cove. See location maps on pages 15, 16, 92 or 106 and the photo on page 104. The routes are listed from left to right.

**Warning:** The rock on this newly bolted face is **not** of the same superb quality as that of the quartzitic sandstone above and the odd small flake tends to pull off. **As usual, climbers and belayers should wear helmets and exercise due caution.**

**1. Hedge Hopper (15) [8B; C] ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (02 November 2008)

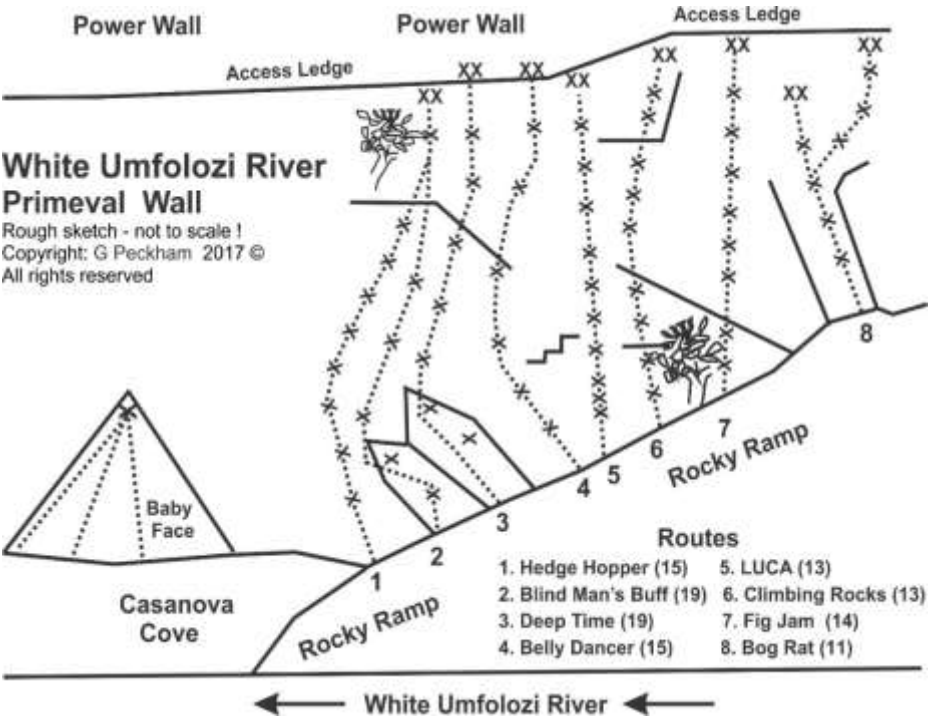
This is the most downstream line of bolts on the wall, closest to Casanova Cove. Start up jugs to reach a steep slab. Climb this on small holds, tending right, to reach a large ledge. From the left-hand end of the ledge, climb a short, awkward, right-facing corner. Of necessity, the chains are awkwardly placed.

**2. Blind Man's Buff (19) [6B; C] ***
FA: Anthony van Tonder (02 November 2008)

Pull up awkwardly into the big scoop 2 m to the right of 'Hedge Hopper'. Tiptoe up and delicately out to the left until you can grope up high for a good, hidden fingertip hold. Move out of the scoop and up onto the face (crux) then climb this, tending right, to reach the big ledge. Finish up 'Hedge Hopper'.

**2a. Unconformity (20) [6B; C] ***
FA: Hallam Payne (02 July 2022)

Starts on the right side of the big scoop, 2 m left of 'Deep Time'. Bouldery move and a flexy mantle, with delicate Primeval slab climbing to follow. Joins 'Blind Man’s Buff' at the fifth bolt.




**3. Deep Time (19) [7B; C] *****

FA: Anthony van Tonder (02 November 2008)

Start 3 m to the right of 'Blind Man's Buff'. Climb diagonally left through an awkward, broken recess then step out left onto a small slanting ledge. Continue up a steep slab tending right on small holds to reach a large ledge. Continue up 2 m to another big ledge. Pull through a short band of steep rock to reach the chains which are set quite far back.

**4. Belly Dancer (15) [6B; C] *****

FA: Gavin Peckham (08 November 2008)

Start about 2 m to the right of 'Deep Time'. Pull up on awkward blocky holds, tending left to reach short face. Climb this on small holds to a ledge. Exit via a crack through a short steep section to reach the chains.

**5. LUCA (13) [10B; C] ****
FA: Gavin Peckham (23 February 2014)

Start in the V-shaped recess between 'Belly Dancer' and 'Climbing Rocks'. Pull up through the V then continue up to a small, slightly undercut face. Climb this on thin holds (alternatively use the awkward blocky holds further left) to reach a small ledge. Continue straight up to the chains.

**6. Climbing Rocks (13) [9B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (04 July 2009)

Start about 3 m to the right of 'Belly Dancer' and immediately to the left of a small fig tree at the base of the face. Climb to the top via a couple of ledges.

**7. Fig Jam (14) [8B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (04 July 2009)

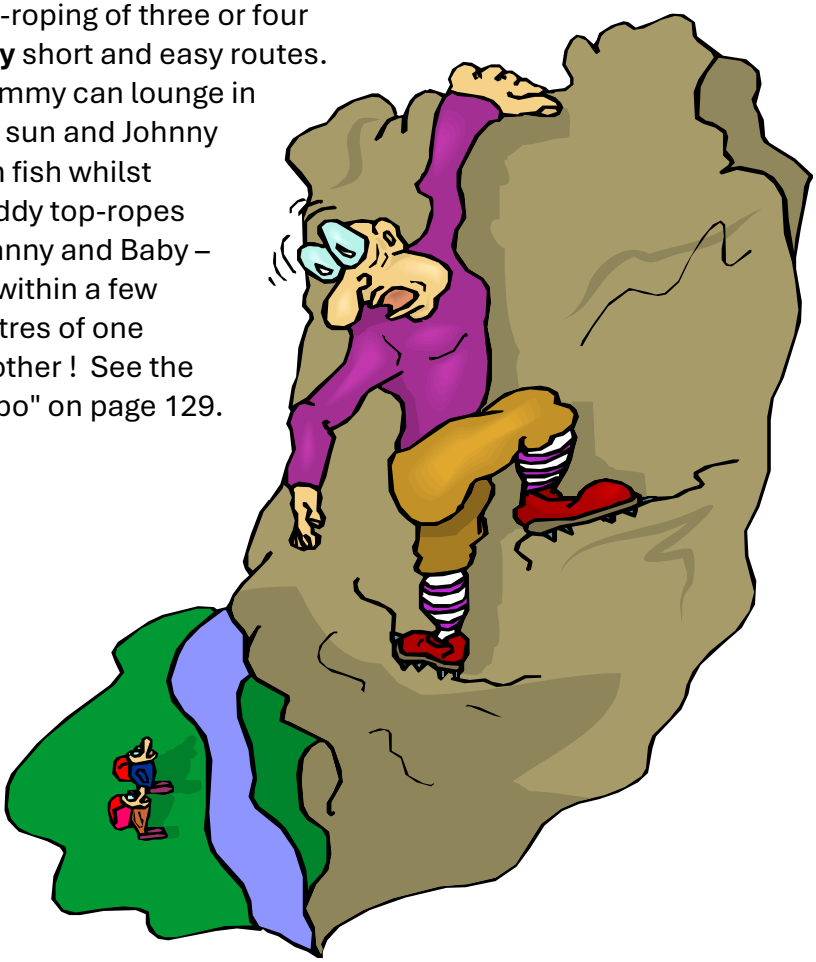
Climb the line of bolts just to the right of the small fig tree. Named after Kevin Peterson, not after the fig tree!

**8. Bog Rat (11) [4B; C]** or **[6B; C] ***** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham (01 August 2009)

Further up the ramp, about 5 to 10 m to the right of 'Fig Jam' there are two left-facing corners. Climb the short corner on the right. At the top of the corner move up left past one bolt to chains (often hidden by grass). Alternatively, move up right past three bolts to another set of chains.

## 4. CASANOVA COVE

There is a small secluded beach directly below the Power Wall and just downstream from the power lines - see topo on page 129. At the back of this beach there is a 4 m high pyramid shaped rock, **'Baby Face'**, that merges with the steep Primeval slabs leading up to the Access Ledge. Two anchors (one chain each) have been placed at the top of this block. These will allow the top-roping of three or four **very** short and easy routes. Mummy can lounge in the sun and Johnny can fish whilst Daddy top-ropes Granny and Baby – all within a few metres of one another ! See the "topo" on page 129.



Apart from a few "boxing glove and roller skates" routes, there are also some "big eyes" routes at the White Umfolozi !

## 5. GULLY WALL – see a location map on page 106 and a plan view on page 133.

The **Rocky Gully** separates the downstream end of the main Power Wall from the Upper Warrior Wall. At this gully, the Power Wall turns away from the river and then forms the right-hand side of the gully. On the Gully Wall, nearest to the river and just around the corner from 'Day Tripper' and 'Alley Cat', is the excellent line, 'Rattlesnake Shake' which is about 20 m high. From here the Gully Wall diminishes in height until it at 'One', it is barely 5 m high. After this, it peters out.

After topping out on this wall it is quick and easy to walk off to the left along the jeep track at the top of the crag. When the crag peters out, leave the track and walk back along the base of the wall. Alternatively, ab off the easily accessible chains at the top of 'Mamba'. Shady trees form a park-like area along the base of the Gully Wall. The climbs are listed from right to left.

### 1. Rattlesnake Shake (15) ****

FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Mark Robertson (27 April 1997)

About two-thirds of the way up the Rocky Gully there are some large, black blocks. Climb easily up the blocks to a ledge at the base of a deep vertical recess. From the back of the ledge, climb straight up the recess until it almost closes out. Step out to the right and climb a short face to a small ledge. Either continue straight up the face above, or step back left and continue up the open book to the top. This is a popular and well protected route.

### 2. Tokoloshe (14) [9B; C] ****

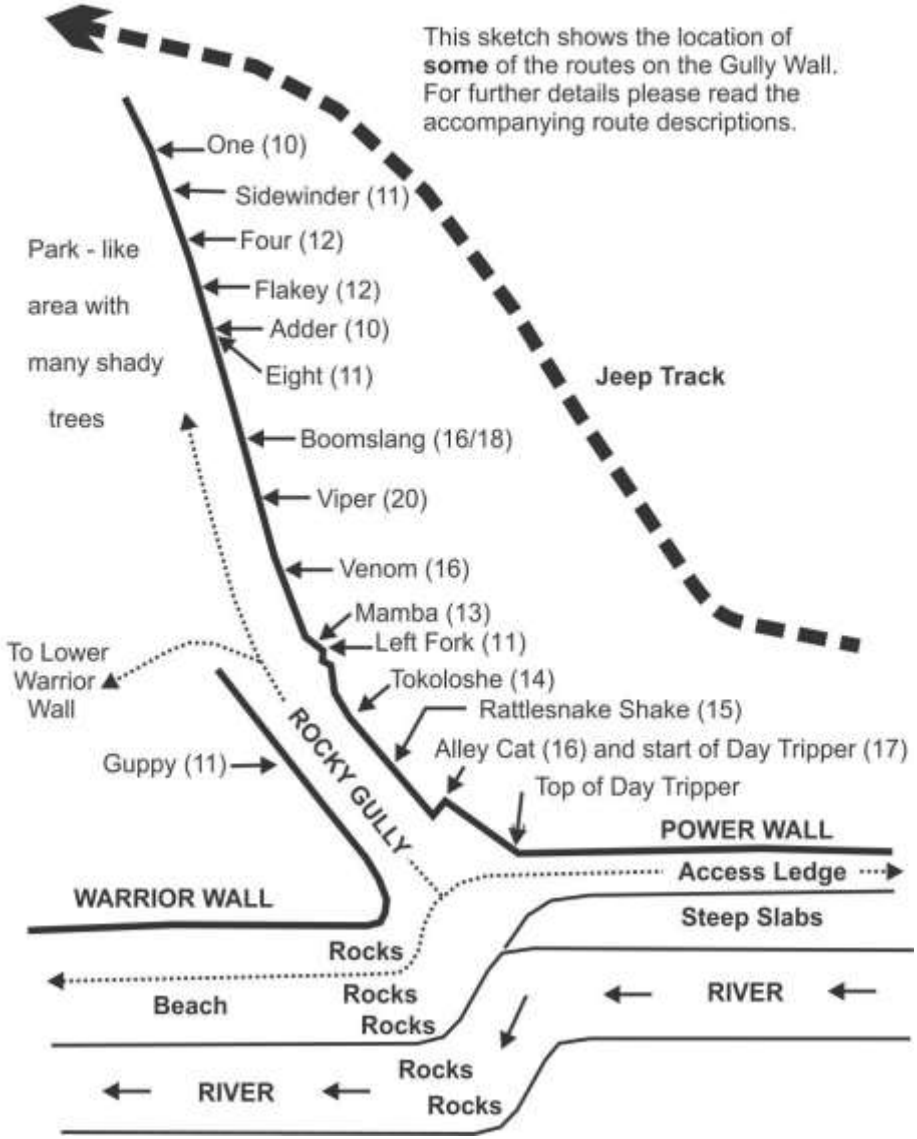
FA: Gavin Peckham (30 June 2007)

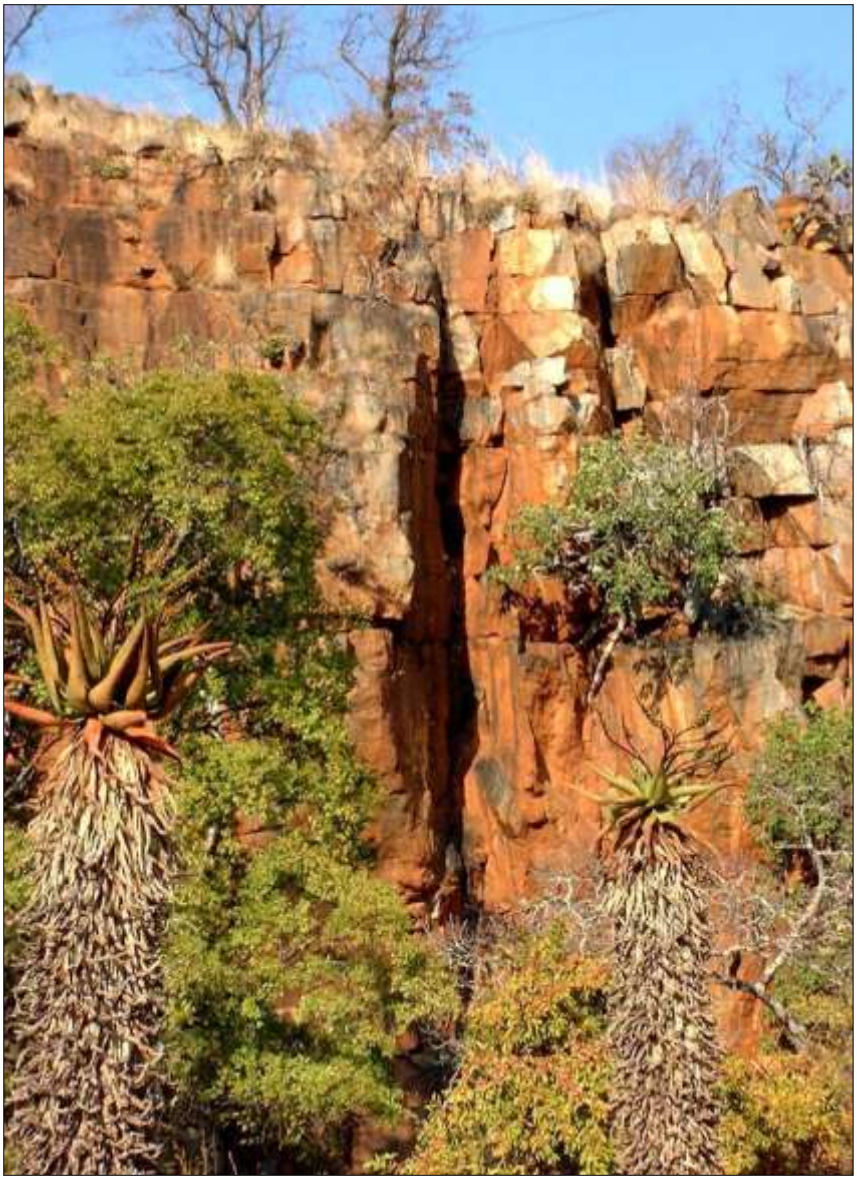
Start down the slope about 10 m to the right of 'Mamba'. Climb the short, awkward crack to a large ledge then continue up a large pyramidal block. From the top of the block, climb straight up the face above. This interesting route requires a wide variety of moves. **Tip:** After clipping B2, unclip B1. After clipping B3, unclip B2. Thereafter the belayer can relocate safely up to the top of the slope from which point s/he will have a good view of the leader on the rest of the route.

# White Umfolozi River
## Gully Wall - plan view

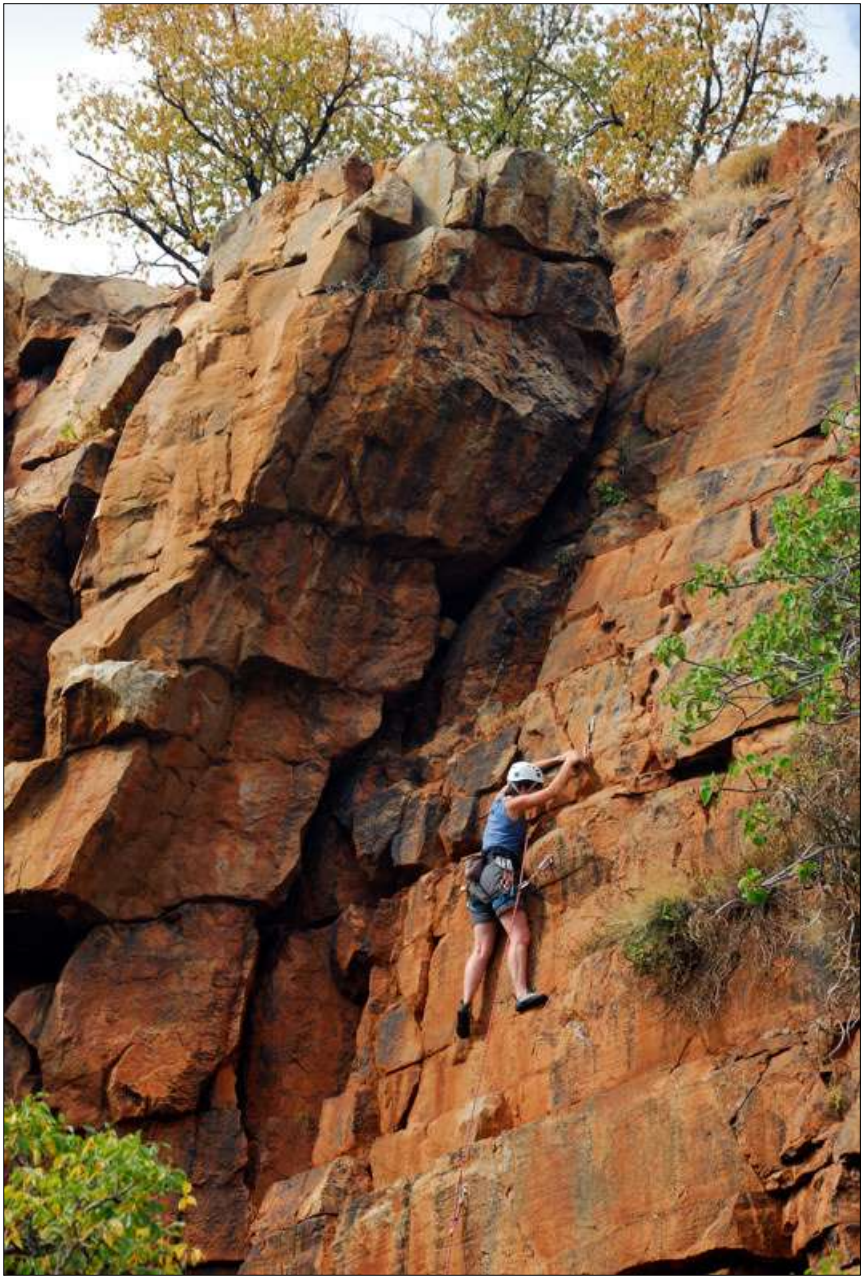
Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved





The 'Rattlesnake Shake' recess on the Gully Wall.  Gavin Raubenheimer opened it.  I fell 10 m from the top of it. Richard Knott caught me and saved me from certain death. **Always** put in gear no matter how easy the climbing !



Kim Breutenbach nearing the top of Tokoloshe. The big corner on her left is Right Fork. Photo: Anthony van Tonder

**3. Hmmm (14) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Anthony van Tonder (25 Sept 2000)

Start at the deep, off-width crack 2 m to the right of the small slab where 'Right Fork', 'Left Fork' and 'Mamba' have their communal starting point. Climb the crack to reach the top of the large pyramidal block that forms the right-hand side of the crack. Step up onto the face above and climb diagonally right to a position just left of, and above a small fig tree, then climb straight up the easy face to the top. This line forms an X with 'Tokoloshe'. The start requires some large cams or hexes.

**Variation:** Start at 'Rattlesnake Shake' and climb the wide crack in the corner on the left to reach a large ledge. Climb the crack between the large pyramidal block and the face. From the top of the block, continue up the face as described above.

**4. Right Fork (10) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (31 August 1997)

At the top of the Rocky Gully there is a large, broken, right-facing corner that runs the full height of the crag. Half way up the crag, the line splits around a small buttress. Start up a small slab, just to the left of the recess. From the slab, move up to the right to gain the recess. Continue up the recess, keeping to the right at the fork.

**5. Left Fork (11) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (31 August 1997)

Start as for 'Right Fork' but keep left at the fork.

**6. Mamba (13) [C] ****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Kevin Scott; Rodney Owen (26 Apr 1997)

Just left of the forked recess is an obvious, left tending crack line. Start by climbing up onto the small slab as for 'Left Fork' and 'Right Fork', but then step up and left (crux) to gain the start of the obvious left-tending line. Climb this on big jugs, exiting left at each of the two small roofs. Finish straight up a small face on thin holds. This is a popular and well protected route.
**Variation:** Exit to the right at the second small roof.

**7. Baby Boomers (18) [5B; C] ***
FA: Mark and Ashleigh Misselhorn (30 July 2005)

Take off just left of 'Mamba'. Climb up through an overlap to gain the short headwall (crux) and then follow the top half of 'Venom' to reach the chains that were placed on that route.

**8. Venom (16) [C] ****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley (27 April 1997)

Start 4 m left of 'Mamba' i.e. about 2 m right of the fig tree at the start of 'Cobra'. Climb straight up to a projecting, black 'fist' of rock and then continue up, tending slightly right to reach the chains. Good climbing and well protected.

**9. Cobra (17) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Rodney Owen (27 April 1997)

Start 2 m left of 'Venom' between the forked stem of a fig tree. Using the fork of the tree to get started, climb straight up, passing just to the right of a large semi-detached block. **Warning:** This large block looks like a death-trap but has resisted our efforts to topple it **– beware, just in case !**
From the block move up diagonally right then finish straight up. Gear is sparse low down but improves higher up.

**10. Boomstone (20) ***
FA: Hallam Payne (19 June 2015)

Start just left of the fig tree between 'Cobra' and 'Viper'. Climb straight up, keeping just left of the semi-detached tombstone blocks near the top of 'Cobra' (Warning - these may be loose, although I couldn't shift them). Gear is sparse low down. Back stepping on the tree provided stability while placing gear on the opening ascent. The gear improves higher up.

**11. Viper (20) ***
FA: Kyle O'Donoghue; Kevin Scott (27 April 1997)

Start up a shallow right tending recess 4 m left of 'Cobra'. Pull up on the obvious blocks to a small roof. Traverse about 2 m left then finish straight up.

**12. Boomslang (18 / 16) ***
FA: Ross O'Donoghue; Kyle O'Donoghue (27 April 1997)

Start 4 m left of 'Viper' and climb the obvious crack line just to the right of a fig tree which is growing out of the rock about halfway up the face. Tend slightly left towards the top. The grade is reduced to about 16 if you use the tree at any stage. Sustained – most people just about camp on the tree !

**NOTE :** To the left of 'Boomslang' there are several, short, somewhat arbitrary lines. These were first climbed by Gavin Peckham during July of 1997. They were uninspiringly named 'One' to 'Eight'. Some of them have subsequently been renamed. If some of these routes seem difficult for their grade, then you are probably missing a less than obvious hold! Some of the better lines have been retro-bolted and a few lines have been added.

**13. Eight (11) [4B; C] ***** (Retro-bolted)
Start at the base of a deep, blocky recess about 8 m to the left of 'Boomslang'. Climb the first 3 m of 'Adder'. Traverse to the right at the obvious point and then climb diagonally up to the right.

**14. Adder (10) [C] ***
Start as for 'Eight' but climb straight up the large, blocky recess. There is a suspect looking block / flake on the way up. It has defied our efforts to dislodge it and seems secure.

**15. Flaky (12) [2B; C] ** (Retro-bolted)**
Start about 5 m to the left of 'Adder' and climb the blocky line on the arête between a small orange face on the left and a large recess on the right.

**16. Five (18) [3B; C] ** (Retro-bolted)**
Start about 3 m to the left of 'Flaky' near the left-hand side of the small, orange face. Use tiny, spaced holds to reach jugs about halfway up and then continue more easily to the top. You can by-pass the hard stuff at the bottom by starting up on the left and then stepping back right onto the face where the climbing gets easier. The grade is then probably only 13 or 14.

**17. Four And A Half (08) [C] ***
Climb the very easy recess between Four and Five. Exit just to the right of the tree at the top. Usually needs cleaning. Shares chains with 'Four'.

**18. Four (12) [3B; C] ****  (Retro-bolted)
Climb the short wall about half way between 'Five' and 'Sidewinder' – i.e. about 3 m from both. This is much easier if you are tall. Don't back-clip the second bolt. To keep the grade at 12 it is necessary to move left, up, then back right after clipping the second bolt.

**19. Sidewinder (11) [3B; C] *****  (Retro-bolted)
Start under a small roof about 3 m to the left of 'Four'. Climb diagonally right to the top.

**20. Scale (14) [C] ****
Start as for 'Sidewinder', directly under a crack through the small roof. Pull through the roof and then on to the top. Good gear under the roof – about five moves in total!

**21. One And A Half (13) [3B; C] ***  (Retro-bolted)
Start about 1 m to the left of 'Scale' and 1 m to the right of 'One'. Climb straight up the very short wall. Shares chains and the third bolt with the next route.

**22. One (10) [3B; C] ***  (Retro-bolted)
Start about 2 m to the left of 'Scale' and climb straight up the very short wall to the top.

## 6. UPPER WARRIOR WALL

Routes on the Warrior Wall are described in two sections, the Upper (upstream) and Lower (downstream) sections. These are separated by a buttress with the 'Hummer' recess on its left and the 'Sands of Time' dihedrals on its right.

If the river is low enough, you can reach the Warrior Wall by crossing the river twice. It is usually easier to cross where the river is broader with a sandy bottom rather than trying to hobble across the narrower, stony sections.

If the river is too full to cross easily you need to scramble up to the Access Ledge and then walk downstream along the ledge until you reach the bottom of the Rocky Gully and the Upper Warrior Wall.

A large, permanent sandbar stretches across the base of the Upper Warrior Wall. When climbing on the Upper Warrior Wall it is a good idea to take a rope mat or towel to keep your ropes out of the sand.

The two short, right-facing dihedrals at 'Sands of Time', the blocky, right-tending corner of 'Batman' and the left-facing corner of 'Dingane's Manoeuvres' are obvious reference points.

Panorama: Upper Warrior Wall. Photo: Mervyn Gans
Arrows L–R: Sands of Time; Batman; Dingane's Manoeuvres
The Works; Purple People Eater

**1. Hummer (26) [5B] ***
FA: Damion McHendry (16 June 1997)

About 10 m downstream from the 'Sands of Time' dihedral is a major left sloping recess. Climb the partially U-bolted line up the orange prow on the right of this recess. Apparently you are then supposed to exit to the left via the unbolted crack at the top of the recess. Need more bolts and chains!

**2. Pass The Ammo (19) ****
FA: Rodney Owen; Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley
(27 October 1996)

Start a few metres left of 'Sand Jam'. Climb easily up ledges to the start of a short, left-tending finger crack that is followed to the top. Adequately protected except for the fact that the best gear placings are also the best handholds.

**3. Sand Jam (17) ****
FA: Eric Penman; Harley Green (1993)

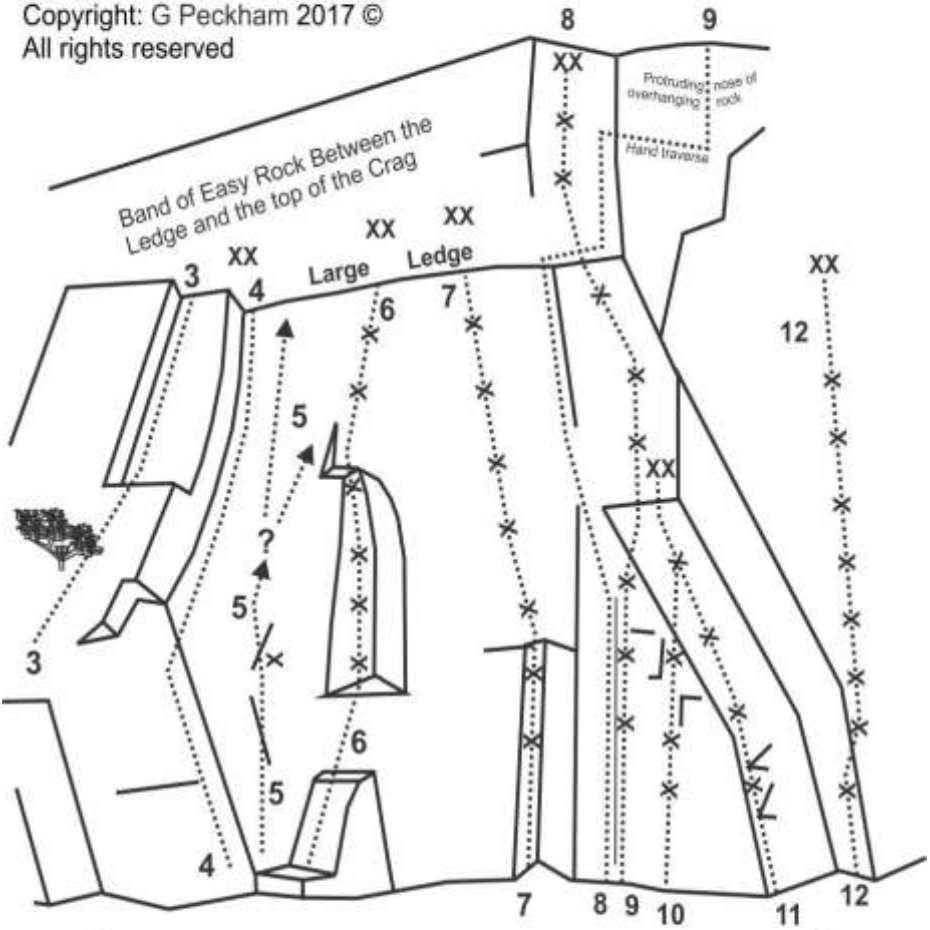
About 25 m downstream from 'Batman' are two pronounced, right-facing dihedrals. Start below the left-hand dihedral and climb up past a small tree to reach the ledge at the base of the dihedral, then climb the dihedral to the top. It may be better to start up 'Sands of Time' and then move across to the base of the 'Sand Jam' dihedral. Just one 'stopper' move and it's all over! Ab off the chains on 'Sands of Time'.

Gavin Raubenheimer camping at his high point on 'Sand Jam' !

# White Umfolozi River
# Upper Warrior Wall
## Left Hand Side

Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved




### Routes

3. Sand Jam (17)
4. Sands of Time (16)
5. A Piece of the Action (18)
6. Cally's Line (17)
7. Peaceful Protest (17)
8. Conan (21)
9. Leopard Print (20)
10. Spit (14)
11. Spot (11)
12. Fairy Dogfather (19)

**4. Sands Of Time (16) [C] ****
First recorded ascent: Richard Knott (1992)
Probably first climbed by Stewart Middlemiss in 1986.

This excellent line takes the dihedral just right of 'Sand Jam'. Climb a ramp to reach the base of the right-tending dihedral, which is then followed to the top. This is a popular and well protected route. There are new chains at the top.

**5. A Piece Of The Action (18) ***
FA: Shaun Cooke; Neil McQueen (1992)

Start from the same position as 'Sands of Time'. Boulder up to a solitary bolt then move left around a small bulge. Continue right to a recess then back left to a ledge. Finish straight up for the last four metres. **Note:** Nobody seems quite sure exactly how this line continues after the lone bolt!

Shaun Cooke writes, "Neil McQueen completed 'The Works' later that day and before coming up with that name he jokingly suggested calling his route 'The Action'!"

**6. Cally's Line (17) [6B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (15 June 2003)

Start 2 m upstream from 'Sands of Time'. Step up onto a large block. Clip the first bolt then move strenuously up (grovel) onto a small ledge at the base of a smooth sided recess. Climb the recess to reach another small ledge and then climb straight up the face above to reach a large ledge with chains.

**7. Peaceful Protest (17) [7B; C] ****
FA: Craig Pearman (1992). Retro-bolted pkfo Gavin Peckham.

About 5 m upstream from 'Sands of Time' is a right-facing recess capped at about 4 m by some bulging rock. Climb the recess and pull through bulging rock to reach a small stance. Climb straight up for a couple of metres and then continue up, tending left on good layaway holds. This is an excellent line.

**8. Conan (21) ****
FA: Neil McQueen (1992)

About a meter to the right of 'Peaceful Protest' is a thin crack line capped by some overhanging rock at the top of the crag. Climb the face on thin holds keeping just to the right of the crack to reach a large ledge just below the overhanging rock. From the ledge, handrail out to the right, over the nose of the overhang. From the furthest point out on the overhang continue straight up. A bold route with a spectacular crux.

**9. Leopard Print (20) [8B; C] ****
FA: Hallam Payne (7 December 2014)

A direct, bolted line going through 'Conan'. Follow the bolts on the right of the vertical crack then, above the fourth bolt, move round the arête and onto a small face. Move strenuously up to a big ledge and then continue straight up to the chains via the easy corner on the left.

**10. Spit (14) [4B; C] **
FA: Gavin Peckham (5 December 2014)

Take the short line of bolts 2 m to the right of 'Conan' and 'Leopard Print'. Shares chains and the top bolt with the next route.

**11. Spot (11) [4B; C] **
FA: Gavin Peckham (5 December 2014)

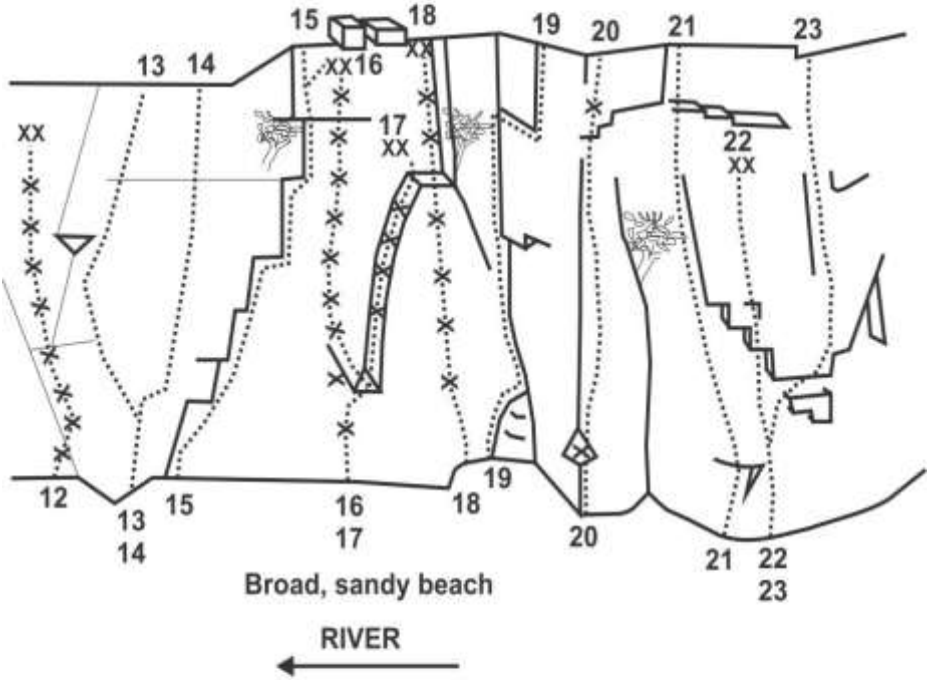
About 2 or 3 m to the right of the previous route there is an obvious, smooth, left sloping ramp that ends at a vertical, orange headwall. Start up easy steps on the left-hand edge of the ramp. A couple of thin moves lead to chains at the bottom of the steep head-wall.

**12. Fairy Dogfather (19) [8B; C] ***
FA: Hallam Payne (6 December 2015)

Start in the big corner to the right of the 'Spot' ramp. Boulder up just to the right of the corner and then follow the bolts up the arête.

# White Umfolozi River
# Upper Warrior Wall
## Central Area

Based on R. Nattrass' original topo
Rough sketch - not to scale !
Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved




**Routes**

12. Fairy Dogfather (19)
13. Mandela's Choice (16)
14. Yush (20)
15. Batman (17)
16. Cat Woman (18)
17. Bird Child (16)
18. Mfecane (23)
19. Dingane's Manoeuvres (18)
20. Shaka (23)
21. Cetshwayo (25)
22. Open Project
23. Open Project

**13. Mandela's Choice (16) ***
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gerald Camp (25 October 1997)

Start as for 'Yush' but move left at the nose and continue up a slab. Move left past a small fig tree to a recess and follow this to the top.

**14. Yush (20) ***
FA: Gerald Camp; Ian Manson (1994)

Start one meter left of 'Batman'. Climb up two metres to below a nose. Step right and climb a steep shallow recess with a good crack line to reach a large ledge. Scramble up easy rock to the top or move off to the right and abseil off a fig tree. Well protected.

**15. Batman (17) *****
First recorded ascent: Gerald Camp (1992)
Probably first climbed by Stewart Middlemiss in 1986.

Climb the prominent, blocky, right tending corner. The crux move is low down on an innocuous looking slab – the adjacent crack reeks of bat pee! Sustained higher up, but well protected. Either top out or lower off the chains on 'Cat Woman'. Please take some mothballs and toss them into the big crack. Hopefully this will persuade the bats to go and live somewhere else !

**16. Cat Woman (18) [9B; C] *****
FA: Gavin Peckham (23 September 2002)

This route follows the line of bolts up the narrow face to the right of 'Batman'. Climb up to the second bolt then either continue straight up or move across to the right and up onto a small ledge at the base of a flaring recess. Either way, follow the bolts up the face to the narrow overlap near the top. Apparently you are supposed to pull through the overlap and continue straight up to the chains. This is much harder than 18 and in practice everybody moves left at the overlap and finishes up the last few of moves of 'Batman'. This line is an old classic that has been top roped for years due to the total absence of gear. It has subsequently been bolted and properly opened.

**17. Bird Child (16) [7B; C] ****
FA: Unknown (Retro-bolted pkfo Gavin Peckham)

Start as for 'Cat Woman'. From the ledge at the base of the recess, climb the right tending corner to a ledge with chains. Continue up the 'Mfecane' dihedral (18) if you wish.

**18. Mfecane (23) [7B; C] *****
FA: Gerald Camp (1992)

This line provides a tricky exercise in thin slab climbing. Start a couple of metres left of the 'Dingane's Manoeuvres' corner and climb straight up the smooth slab past five bolts to a ledge, then continue up the short, awkward dihedral above.

**19. Dingane's Manoeuvres (18) ****
FA: Neil McQueen (1992)

Climb the huge, left-facing corner just upstream from 'Batman'. Towards the top, move out right into the cubbyhole at the base of an off-width crack on the right hand face. Climb the off-width to the top (crux). This route requires several large hexes or cams and a few small wires. The off-width can be protected with a # 6 Friend if you have one. A # 4 can be positioned at the base of the off-width but will be liable to 'walk'. Failing that, make sure you have bomber gear in the rail, level with the base of the cubbyhole. This will give a safe, but spectacular fall if you come unstuck on the off-width.

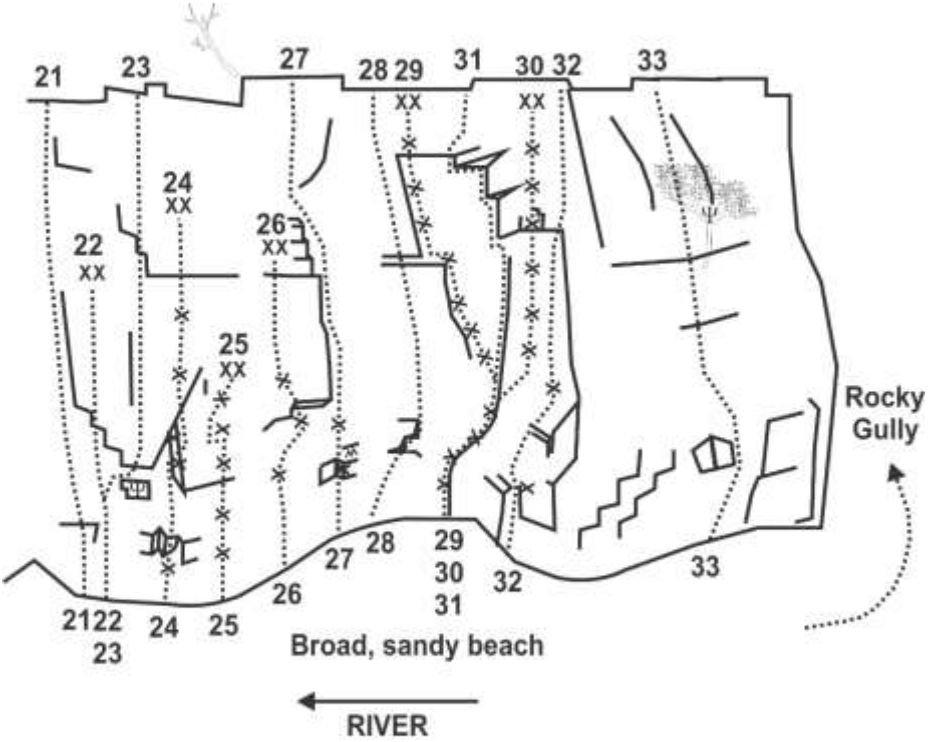
**Variation (19)** Linden Feirrera; Kanji Yoshimura (02 Oct 2005)
Instead of moving out right to the off-width, carry on straight up the corner to the top.

**20. Shaka (23) ****
FA: Neil McQueen (1992)

Follow the arête right of 'Dingane's Manoeuvres'. A bouldery start leads to a mantelshelf move protected by a bolt. Move onto the right hand face and then up on easy holds, tending back to the arête and a second bolt. Thin moves to a jug are followed by a pleasant finish.

# White Umfolozi River
# Upper Warrior Wall
## Right Hand Side

Based on R. Nattrass' original topo
Rough sketch - not to scale !
Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved




**Routes**

21. Cetshwayo (25)
22 & 23. Open Projects
24. The Works (24)
25. Supreme Being (27)
26. Open Project
27. Iklwa (23)
28. Purple People Eater (21)
29. Dingiswayo (16)
30. Tribute to 15 Sundays (17)
31 & 32. Open Projects
33. Mthethwa (18)

**21. Cetshwayo (25) ****
FA: Brett Clarke (1992)

Just right of 'Shaka' is a corner with a tree growing halfway up. Climb the left tending groove / corner to the right of this. Strenuous, and a little difficult to protect.

**22. Open Project**
Start just right of 'Cetshwayo' and climb straight up through the roof to the coldshuts. The grade is probably about 26 to 28. There are chains at the top of the route.

**23. Project –** Craig Robertson.
An open project by now?

**24. The Works (24) [6B; C] *****
FA: Neil McQueen (1992)

Follow the line of bolts through the inverted "V" in the centre of the wall. This is a fine route that somehow uses every type of climbing technique to make it to the top, hence the name.

**25. Supreme Being (27) [5B; C] ****
FA: Roger Nattrass (1993)

This is a technical and powerful line. A bouldery start leads to a rest under the overlap. Long stretches and cranks are the solution to this imposing problem.

**26. Project [3B] -** Andrew Russell-Boulton
An open project by now?

**27. Iklwa (23) [11B; C] *** (Retro-bolted)**
FA: Gerald Camp (1992)

Climb the face past two bolts then continue up the corner above. The line has good gear and an enjoyable crux at the second bolt.

**28. Purple People Eater (21) ****
FA: Craig Robertson (1993)

Start just right of 'Iklwa'. Climb diagonally right to the cubby hole - strenuous. Tend left up the face above on good finger locks and edges.

**29. Dingiswayo (16) [11B; C] ****** (Retro-bolted.)
FA: Gerald Camp (1992)

Start at the obvious left-facing corner with a small fig tree at the base. Climb the corner until it steepens. Follow the easy ramp to the left then continue straight up to the top. The ramp has zero gear. Gerald has recently been retro-bolted this excellent line.

**30. A Tribute to 15 Sundays (17) [10B; C] *****
FA: Gerald Camp (28 July 2019)
Start up the 'Dingiswayo' ramp passing 4 bolts. Move out to the right, up and onto the face then follow the line of 6 bolts up to the chains.

**31. Open Project:** Start as for 'Dingiswayo' but continue up the corner and then try to make it through the roofs.

**32. Open Project:** Start a couple of meters to the right of # 31. Climb up past two bolts and then try and make it to the top.

**33. Mthethwa (18) *****
FA: Neil McQueen (1992)

Start about 20 m right of 'Dingiswayo'. Climb up through an upside-down V-shaped crack. Continue up to the left of a fig tree then on up a smooth recess to the top blocks.

**34. To Be Free (A2)**
FA: Gerald Camp (April, 1999)

Start 7 m to the right of 'Mthethwa'. Climb the beautiful, thin, left-slanting, crack and then climb directly up the face above.

**35. Senzangakhona's Sin (16) *****
FA: Gerald and Allison Camp (1993)

Start about 20 m left of the upstream end of the Warrior Wall. Follow the obvious right-tending crack until near a tree and then continue left up a shallow dihedral. (Probably yet another Camp sandbag!)

**36. Arachnid Left Break (16) ***
FA: Richard Knott; Gavin Peckham; Rodney Owen
(25 April 1999)

Start as for 'Arachnid'. From the small stance below the fig tree, step left onto the face to reach an exposed position below a small ledge that forms the base of a large recess. Move up onto the ledge and then climb to the top via the back of the recess, or up the arête on the left (easier).

**37. Arachnid (15) ***
FA: Eric Penman; Donovan Gosher; Kirsten Head (1993)

About 10 m before the arête at the upstream end of the wall there is a right-sloping ramp with a thin flake line on the adjacent face. Climb a short face to the ramp and then climb the ramp using the flake line. Mantle onto a small stance below a fig tree and then step right below the tree. Exit up to the right of the tree by following the line of least resistance.

The remaining routes on this wall are around the corner on the face the forms the left-hand side of the Rocky Gully as you face up the gully.

**38. Scorpion (14) ***
FA: Gerald Camp; Donovan Gosher; Kirsten Head (1993)

This line takes the blocky arête at the upstream end of the Warrior Wall. Start on the rock ledge, just to the right of the arête, in the Rocky Gully between the Warrior and Power walls and then climb the arête, moving left around the arête near the top.

**39. Flaming Haggis (16) **
FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Gavin Peckham (12 October 2002)

Start on the rock ledge about 3 m to the right of 'Scorpion'. Climb straight up the face to a ledge 3 m below the top. Climb the final rock band to top out about 3 m to the right of the arête. Protection is adequate but tricky. The route would be greatly improved by some decent gardening.

**40. The Deadly Goldfish (11) ****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Des Porter (21 March 2003)

Start about 2 m to the right of 'Flaming Haggis' at the beginning of a crack line that runs up diagonally to the right. Climb the crack line to a point about 2/3 of the way up the face. Move slightly left and then finish straight up. Well protected with some interesting moves but tends to get sandy and vegetated.

**41. Taylor's Halt (08) ***
FA: Des Porter (21 March 2003)

Start about 4 m to the right of 'Deadly Goldfish'. Climb straight up to a small tree. Pass this on the left and then head left to finish up 'Deadly Goldfish'.

**42. Guppy (11) [4B; C] ****  (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham (21 March 2003)

Start about 2 m to the right of 'Taylor's Halt'. Climb easily up a slab and then up the crack to the right of the block at the top of the crag. This is a short but pleasant line.

Looking upstream at the Upper Warrior Wall and the Power Wall. The Rocky Gully starts in the shady area between these two walls.

## 7. LOWER WARRIOR WALL

During the winter months the river is so shallow that you can almost always walk from the Upper to the Lower Warrior Wall through ankle deep water or even over dry sand. During the summer months the base of the Lower Warrior Wall is usually covered by about a half a metre of water.

If the river is too full to cross easily, you can scramble up the Rocky Gully and then walk downstream along the top of the Warrior Wall to the conveniently situated chains at the top of 'Dad's Army'. From here you can abseil down onto a large, clean, rock ledge known, unimaginatively, as the Big Ledge.

Most of the routes on this end of the wall lead up from the Big Ledge. Routes upstream of the Big Ledge may be reached by a very easy traverse, about 1 m above the normal water level. There are small belay ledges at the starts of most of these routes.

There is a useful access scramble (about grade 8) that takes the large corner, at the downstream end of the Big Ledge.

The routes on this wall are mostly bolted and tend to be short (8 m to 15 m). Many of these routes were opened solo or on trad but, because the gear placings are extremely sparse, many of them have been retro-bolted. Looking back after many years I can't believe that, given our modest climbing abilities, we were bold (i.e. foolish!) enough to lead these many of these routes on virtually no gear – the young think they are immortal! "There are old climbers and there are bold climbers but there are no old, bold climbers!"

A few lines in this sector remain unbolted because permission of the opening ascentionists has not been forthcoming.

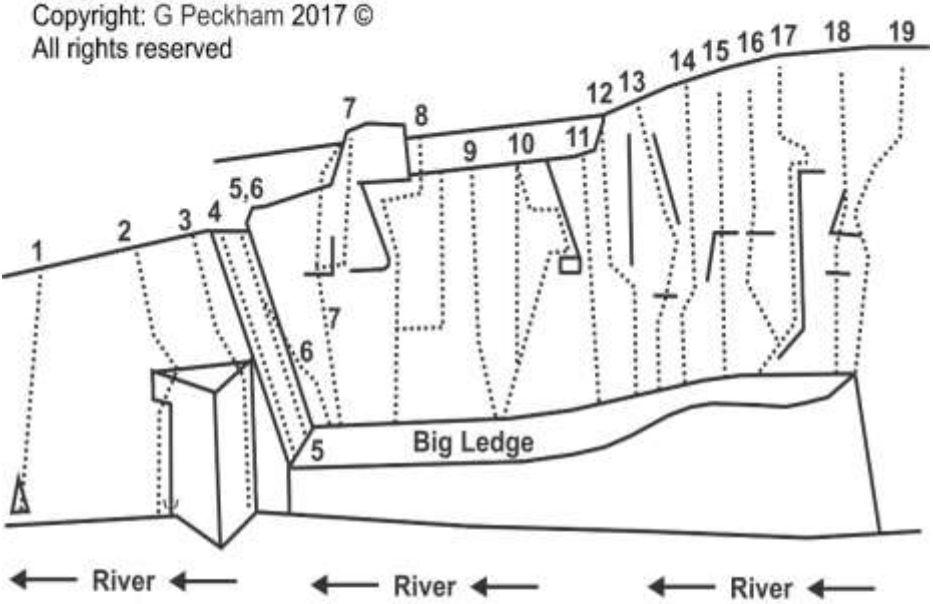
The large, left-facing corner of 'Inkosi' towards the upstream end of the Big Ledge is an obvious reference point for climbers new to this venue.

The climbs are listed in an upstream sequence from left to right.

# White Umfolozi River
# Lower Warrior Wall
## Left-Hand Side

Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved




**Routes**

1. Oslo (20)
2. Splash (17)
3. Rocky Raccoon (13)
4. Toy Soldier (9)
5. Woodpecker (8)
6. Access Scramble (8)
7. Rorke's Drift + Var (17)
8. Saving the Colours + Var (17)
9. Old Bullets (17)
10. Mpande + Variation (12)
11. Deuce (19)
12. Rifle Drill (19)
13. Firing Line (18)
14. Dad's Army (15)
15. Stuhla (22)
16. Sticky Fingers (23)
17. Inkosi (16)
18. A (14)
19. B (12)

**Note:** All these short routes are fully bolted except for Nos. 1, 2 & 6. See RDs for details.

**1. Oslo (20) ***
FA: Ryan Castle (16 June 1997)

Start 5 m downstream from 'Splash' at a tiny bush growing from a crack in the rock near water level and climb to the top. Alternatively, walk along the top of the crag to a position about 10 m downstream of the route then scramble down to near water level and traverse upstream. If you follow this approach, then the route starts at the second tiny bush on the traverse. There is virtually no gear. The name is an anagram describing the manner in which the route was opened.

**2. Splash (17) ***
FA: Richard Knott; Bryan Palmer (26 April 1999)

The downstream side of the Big Ledge ends at a huge triangular block. The downstream side of this block has a smooth over hanging face and forms a corner with the adjacent wall. Start on the small rock platform in this corner - this is often under water in summer! Climb up past a rail to a second rail under the roof in the corner. Swing out right from under the roof and mantle onto the block. Move back left up a bulge on the face above the corner and then continue up the face tending slightly left. "Named after the manner in which it was opened!" (Richard fell off and into the river!)

**3. Rocky Raccoon (13) [6B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (16 June 2013)

Start off a tiny stance at the base of a recess about 1 m left of 'Toy Soldier' and follow the left-tending line of bolts. The belayer (and stacked rope) will probably be more comfortable on the larger ledge at the start of 'Toy Soldier'.

**4. Toy Soldier (09) [5B; C] ***** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham; Rodney Owen (15 April 1995)

Teach your grandmother to climb – start at the downstream end of the Big Ledge. Climb the left-hand side of the easy slab to the left of the scramble. Possibly 11 if you pull straight through the small roof at the top. A nice variety of moves at the grade.

**5. Woodpecker (08) [6B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (16 June 2013)

Follow the line of bolts 1 m right of 'Toy Soldier'. The top half of this line is the same as the original 'Access Scramble'.

**6. Access Scramble (08) [C] ***
FA: Roy Gooden (15 September 1996)

Start about 3 m to the right of 'Woodpecker' and scramble up diagonally left up blocky rock to reach the big right facing corner which is followed to the top.

**7. Rorke's Drift (17) [3B; C] ** (Retro-bolted)**
FA: Gavin Peckham; Rodney Owen (26 April 1997)

Start in a small, angular recess about 3 m to the right of the downstream end of the Big Ledge. Climb up easily to reach a short, smooth face. Mantle up onto a narrow rock ledge - crux. From the right-hand end of the ledge, climb to the top tending slightly right.

**Variation** (17): From the ledge, step to the right and slightly down onto a small block then climb the short face to the top.

**8. Saving The Colours (17) [4B; C] *** (Retro-bolted)**
FA: Gavin Peckham; Rodney Owen (26 April 1997)

Start in a recess about 3 m right of 'Rorke's Drift' and directly below a large, overhanging block at the top of the crag. Climb up to a protruding block and layback to the left off this in order to continue up to the chains under the overhanging block. You can top out by making a nice exit move to the right to reach another set of anchors.

**Variation**: From a point about a metre below the protruding block, take a big stride to the right to reach a blocky recess and follow this straight up to the top – no bolts yet – trickier than it looks.

**9. Old Bullets (17) [4B; C] *** ** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Rodney Owen; Gavin Peckham (23 September 2000)

Start on the right-hand side of the big, broken recess between 'Saving the Colours' and 'Mpande'. Climb the steep wall on good, spaced holds up to a small arête / corner. Continue up the face on the right of the corner.

**10. Mpande (12) [3B; C] *** ** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham; Rodney Owen (15 April 1995)

About 5 m upstream from the overhanging block at the top of 'Saving the Colours' there is a prominent, left sloping and left-facing corner in the top half of the face. Start directly below the top end of the corner and climb up diagonally right, along the obvious blocky line to a small block that juts out of the face at the base of the corner. Move up the corner, then step left onto the face and up to the anchors. Very easy except for the last two moves. This is the first route I ever opened.

**Variation (14).** Before reaching the small block, climb straight up the face to the chains.

**11. Deuce (19) [5B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (02 February 2002)

Start just to the right of a point directly below the small jutting block on 'Mpande' and then climb straight up the face to the top using small holds on the face and big holds out to the left on the edge of the 'Mpande' recess.

**12. Rifle Drill (19) [4B; C] **
FA: Rodney Owen; Gavin Peckham (20 July 1997)

Just to the right of 'Mpande' there is a shallow, vertical recess that starts about halfway up the face. Climb easily up to the bottom of the recess. Step left onto the face and climb strenuously up through the bulging face to the top. Fingery.

**13. Firing Line (18) [5B; C] ***
FA: Rodney Owen; Gavin Peckham (02 September 2001)

In the top half of the crag, just to the right of 'Rifle Drill', there is a distinct, left-facing, left-tending corner - similar to the 'Mpande' corner but a couple of metres to the right of it. Climb straight up through an overlap to reach the base of the corner and follow this to the top keeping just to the **left** of the corner.

**14. Dad's Army (15) [4B; C] ***** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Rodney Owen; Gavin Peckham (27 October 1996)

Start where the Big Ledge is at its narrowest. Climb up, tending slightly right initially, then continue straight up and though a small overlap to the top. A neat line.

**15. Stuhla (22) [4B; C] ***
FA: Scott Sinclair; Dave Drummond (24 September 2004)

Start about 3 m to the right of 'Dad's Army'. Climb straight up to an overlap that is split by a crack and then up through this to the chains. A fun, power problem.

**16. Sticky Fingers (23) [4B; C] ***
FA: Hansie van Rooyen (02 November 2008)

Start between 'Stuhla' and 'Inkosi'. Climb up to a rail. Crank up to a flake. Pull up to a second flake then continue up more easily to the chains. Careful - there is a bit of a run-out to the third bolt.

**17. Inkosi (16) [5B; C] ***** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham; Rodney Owen (15 July 1995)

Start at a prominent left-facing dihedral 3 m left of the upstream end of the Big Ledge. Balance up a small ramp and into the corner which is climbed on big, reachy holds. From the top of the corner step up left onto the face and continue up to the top.

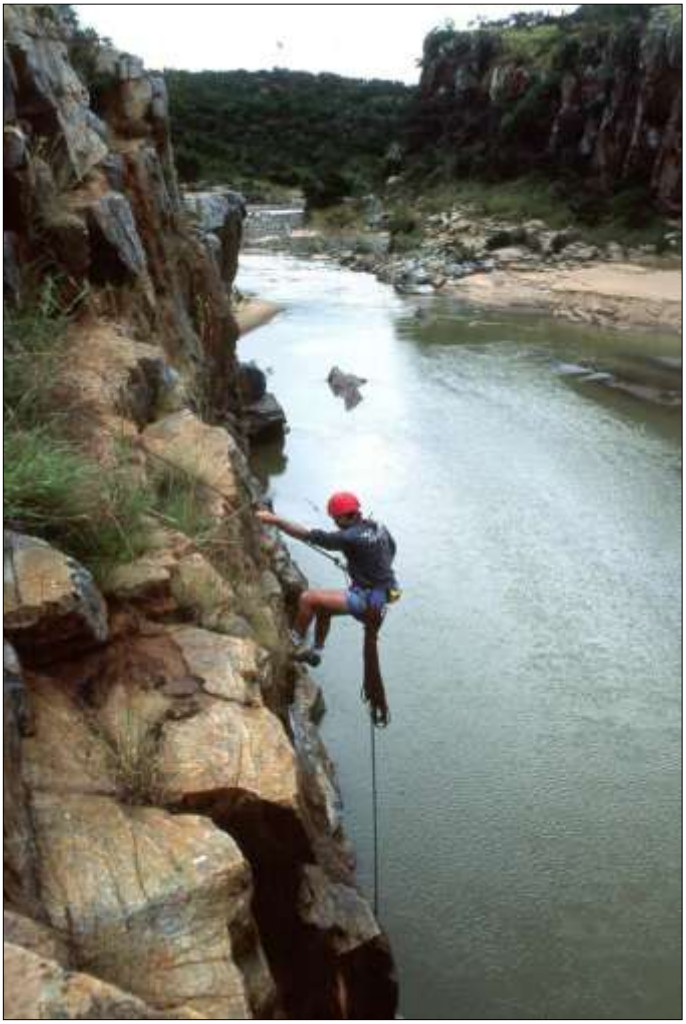
**18. A (14) [6B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham (18 June 2016)

Follow the line of bolts about 3 m upstream (right) of the prominent, left-facing 'Inkosi' dihedral. Reachy in places.

**XX. Induna (12) **** FA: Gavin Peckham (20 July 1997)
Now redundant. Replaced by 'A' and 'B'.

**19. B (12) [5B; C] *****
FA: Gavin Peckham (18 June 2016)

Follow the line of bolts at the upstream end of the 'Big Ledge'. I.e. about 2 m upstream (right) of the previous route.

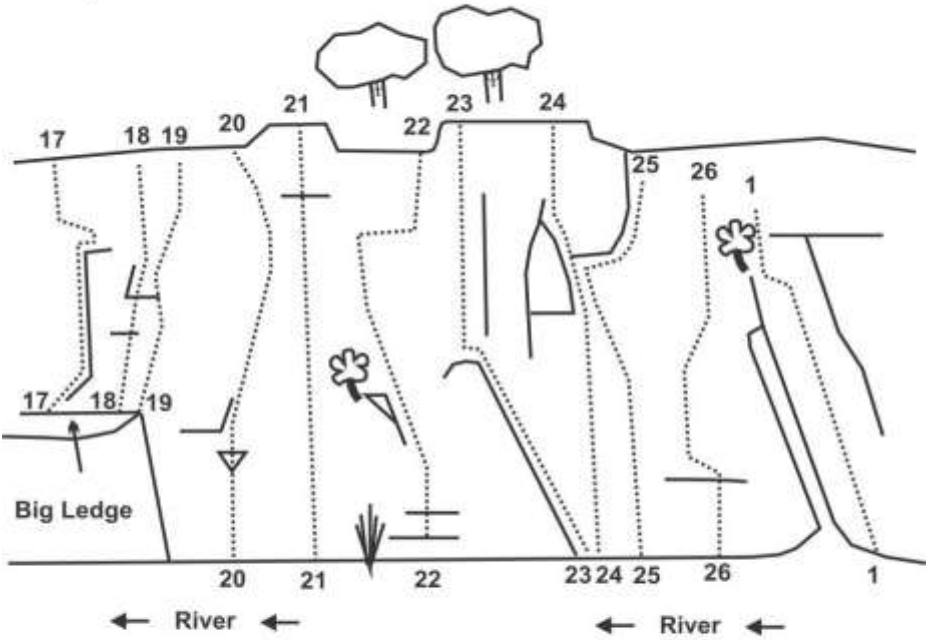


Rodney Owen abseiling down 'Dad's Army' onto the Big Ledge. Photo: Anthony van Tonder

# White Umfolozi River
# Lower Warrior Wall
## Right Hand Side

Rough sketch - not to scale !

Copyright: G Peckham 2017 ©
All rights reserved




**Routes**

17. Inkosi (16)
18. A (14)
19. B (12)
20. Impi (14)
21. Usuthu (14)
22. Red River Rock (14)
23. Redcoat (19)
24. Khehla (19)
25. Gogo (16)
26. Old Dog (16)
1. Hummer (26)

**Note:** All these routes are bolted except for Nos. 23 & 24. See RDs for details.

**Note:** If necessary, the following routes, may be reached by an easy traverse about 1 m above the water level, starting by scrambling down from the upstream end of the Big Ledge.

**20. Impi (14) [5B; C] *** ** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham; Neil Peckham (10 June 1995)

About 6 m upstream from the upstream end of the Big Ledge, there is a small open book. This starts down at water level and is capped at about 3 m by a tiny roof. Start in the open book, pull through the roof on the right and move up to a shallow recess that is followed to the top.

**21. Usuthu (14) [7B; C] *** ** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham; Neil Peckham (10 June 1995)

Start about 3 m to the right of 'Impi' and directly below a distinct overlap near the top of the crag. Follow the easiest line up, wandering both left and right of the bolts, and then mantle through the overlap to exit. At the overlap most climbers chicken out and grovel up the small, broken recess on the right.

**22. Red River Rock (14) [8B; C] ****
FA: Gavin Peckham; Grant Tunmer (24 November 2003)

Start between 'Usuthu' and 'Red Coat' immediately upstream of the only large clump of grass currently growing at the base of this section of the crag. Start up easy ledges and then, with more difficulty, up to the left of a small fig tree. After the 6th bolt keep moving up and slightly **left*** (crux), before stepping out right to reach the 7th bolt. Thereafter, cruise up to the chains. When the river is high, it is easy to abseil in to this route off the chains, or to traverse upstream from the 'Big Ledge'. (*trying to move up, tending right towards the 7th bolt makes the crux moves much harder.)

**23. Redcoat (19) *** ** (28 June 1997)
FA: Richard Knott; Gavin Peckham; Jonathon Wigley; Robbie Dyer

Climb easily up the narrow, left-sloping ramp immediately left of 'Khehla'. From the top of the ramp climb straight up a strenuous layback crack and then straight up the face above. Do not exit left.

**24. Khehla (19) ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Richard Knott (28 June 1997)

About 15 m downstream from the U-bolted line 'Hummer' there is a distinctive, flat, overhanging slab near the top of the wall. Just to the left of this, at the base of the wall, is a large recess. Climb the recess, tending slightly right, to reach the slab. Continue up the steep, narrow ramp on the left (crux – a blade peg is essential for protection) and then exit straight up. I'll get around to bolting this line in due course.

**25. Gogo (16) [6B; C] ***** (Retro-bolted)
FA: Gavin Peckham; Richard Knott (28 June 1997)

Start in the recess about 3 m upstream from 'Khehla'. Climb up tending left to a position under a flat, overhanging slab – i.e. the route touches 'Khehla' at this point. From here use tiny foot holds and lay-away holds out on the right to reach the base of a narrow recess that leads up to the chains.

**26. There's Life in the Old Dog Yet (16) [6B; C] ***
FA: Gavin Peckham; Martha Gurtz (27 May 2005)

Start in a small recess about 4 m upstream from 'Gogo' and just to the left of the 'Hummer' recess. Climb up 2 m to a ledge. Step left and then climb up the left-hand side of a smooth, right-tending recess. At the top of the recess, step across to the right and then continue straight on up to the chains.

Gavin P making a grade 1 slab look difficult !

A refreshing dip after a morning's hard climbing.

Upper Warrior Wall (left) and Gully Wall (right).

Photos: Anthony van Tonder

# Index of Routes by Grade

The routes are listed by (1) grade (2) star rating (3) alphabetically.

**[xB; C]** = number of **B**olts and **C**hains – the rest are **trad** routes.

**Skip to grade: 21 ; 20 ; 19 ; 18 ; 17 ; 16 ; 15 ; 14 ; 13 ; 12 ; 11 ; 10**


| | Page |
|---|---|
| **27** | |
| Supreme Being (27) [5B; C] **** (Upper Warrior Wall) | 149 |
| **26** | |
| Jamludi (26) [19B; C] 37 m ***** (Power Wall) | 122 |
| Hummer (26) [5B] *** (Upper Warrior Wall) | 141 |
| **25** | |
| Cetshwayo (25) **** (Upper Warrior Wall) | 149 |
| High Step To Hell (25) [6B; C] **** (Friction Wall) | 80 |
| **24** | |
| God's Great Banana Skin (24) [5B; C] ***** (Friction Wall) | 80 |
| Works, The (24) [6B; C] ***** (Upper Warrior Wall) | 149 |
| Shaft Of Gold (24) [7B; C] **** (Friction Wall) | 85 |
| **23** | |
| Mfecane (23) [7B; C] ***** (Upper Warrior Wall) | 147 |
| Savannah (23) [12B; C] **** (Buffalo Face) | 51 |
| Shaka (23) **** (Upper Warrior Wall) | 147 |
| Iklwa (23) [11B; C] *** (Upper Warrior Wall) | 149 |
| Purple Sea Of Doubt (23) [6B; C] *** (Power Wall) | 113 |
| Sticky Fingers (23) [4B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) | 158 |
| **22** | |
| Sensation (22) [18B; 2B] ***** (Power Wall) | 123 |
| Dairy Dilemma (22) **** (Friction Wall) | 76 |
| Terrible Ones, The (22) [12B; C] **** (Buffalo Face) | 51 |
| Miff-Muffered Moof (22?) [14B?; C] *** (Bits & Pieces) | 64 |
| Stuhla (22) [4B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) | 158 |

**21**


Conan (21) **** (Upper Warrior Wall) 144

Dyslexia (21) [8B; C] **** (Friction Wall) 79

Hunted Child (21) **** (Friction Wall) 80

Mechanics Of Terror (21) [9B; C] **** (Buffalo Face) 51

Picture Frame (21) [9B; C] **** (Friction Wall) 82

Purple People Eater (21) **** (Upper Warrior Wall) 149

Siyadiliva (21) [11B; C] **** (Power Wall) 122

Bee Line (18, 21) [6B; C];[7B; C] *** (Bits & Pieces Wall) 65

Flat Bat Tetris (21) [8B; C] *** (Power Wall) 117

Stone Crazy (21) [8B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 77


**20**


Carnivore (20) [9B; C] ***** (Promised Land) 73

Psychobabble Rap (20) [C] ***** (Friction Wall) 86

Icons Of Self Indulgence (20) **** (Buffalo Face) 51

Last Tango (20) [11B; C] **** (Friction Wall) 81

Legio Patria Nostra (20) [8B; C] **** (Buffalo Face) 51

Leopard Print (20) [8B; C] **** (Upper Warrior Wall) 144

Pieces Of Silver (20) [8B; C] **** (Buffalo Face) 52

Proelio Procusi (20) [9B; C] **** (Buffalo Face) 52

Tata Ma Chance Direct (20, 20) **** (Power Wall) 124

Boomstone (20) *** (Gully Wall) 137

Dynamite (20) [6B; C] *** (Power Wall) 112

Oslo (20) *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 155

Solar Power (20, 17) *** (Power Wall) 110

Tata Ma Chance (16, 20) *** (Power Wall) 124
Unconformity (20) [6B; C] *** (Primeval Wall) 128
Viper (20) *** (Gully Wall) 137
White Streak (20) [6B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 85
Yush (20) *** (Upper Warrior Wall) 146

**19**

Cold Stone Jug (19) [10B; C] ***** (Friction Wall) 79
Powers That Be, The (19) ***** (Power Wall) 123
Rock Me Baby (19) [10B; C] ***** (Friction Wall) 77
Cackles Of Fiendish Laughter (19) [14B; C] **** (Mkhize) 57
Desolation Angel (19) **** (Buffalo Face) 54
Diamond In The Rough (19) [8B; C] **** (Friction Wall) 78
Blind Man's Buff (19) [6B; C] *** (Primeval Wall) 128
Chalk And Cheese (19) *** (Power Wall) 116
Crackamania (19) *** (Friction Wall) 85
Deep Time (19) [7B; C] *** (Primeval Wall) 129
Deuce (19) [5B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 157
Diagonal Street (19) [C] *** (Friction Wall) 81
Fairy Dogfather (19) [7B; C] *** (Upper Warrior Wall) 144
First Time Lucky (19) [7B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 88
Khehla (19) *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 162
Machu Picchu (19) [7B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 83
Redcoat (19) *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 161
Relative Youth (19) [5B; C] *** (Power Wall) 113

Zareba (19) *** (Friction Wall) 83
Labour Pains (19) ** (Friction Wall) 84
Pass The Ammo (19) ** (Upper Warrior Wall) 141
Rifle Drill (19) [4B; C] ** (Lower Warrior Wall) 157
What's In It For Me? (16/19) ** (Friction Wall) 75

**18**

Cat Woman (18) [9B; C] ***** (Upper Warrior Wall) 146
Infidels (18) [12B; C] ***** (Friction Wall) 80
Bit On The Side (18) [6B; C] + [9B; C] **** (Friction Wall) 79
Devil In Disguise (18) [9B; C] **** (Friction Wall) 81
Dingane's Manoeuvres (18) **** (Upper Warrior Wall) 147
Red Legged Bastard (18) [C] **** (Power Wall) 120
Baby Boomers (18) [5B; C] *** (Gully Wall) 137
Bee Line (18, 21) [6B; C];[7B; C] *** (Bits & Pieces Wall) 65
Boomslang (16/18) *** (Gully Wall) 138
Firing Line (18) [5B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 158
Groovy Grunt (18) *** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 92
Magic Mushroom (14/18) [6B; C] *** (Bushy Buttress) 94
Marshall Approach, The (18) *** (Bushy Buttress, Lower) 100
Mthethwa (18) *** (Upper Warrior Wall) 150
Piece Of The Action, A (18) *** (Upper Warrior Wall) 143
Return To Power (18) *** (Power Wall) 123
Snow White (14/18) [5B; C] *** (Bushy Buttress, Lower) 98
Super Sport (18) *** (Friction Wall) 77
Time Warp (18) [9B; C] *** (Power Wall) 110
Treason Knees (18) [6B; C] *** (Promised Land) 69

Winding Umfolozi (18) *** (Power Wall) 120
Aches And Pains (18) ** (Friction Wall) 86
Five (18) [3B; C] ** (Gully Wall) 138
Grunt (18) ** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 97
Transformer (18) * (Power Wall) 119

**17**

Batman (17) ***** (Upper Warrior Wall) 146
Day Tripper (17) ***** (Power Wall) 125
Zulu Blade (17) [9B; C] ***** (Friction Wall) 86
Call Girl (17) [11B; C] **** (Power Wall) 120
Crazy Crawler (17) [7B; C] **** (Promised Land) 71
Green Hills Of Zululand (17) [13B; C] **** (Mkhize's B.) 56
Impundula (17, 17) [8B; C] : [10B; C] **** (Mkhize's B.) 56
Lorax, The (17) [C] **** (Bits And Pieces Wall) 63
Miff-Muffered Moof (17) **** (Bits And Pieces Wall) 64
Peaceful Protest (17) [7B; C] **** (Upper Warrior Wall) 143
Servant King (17) [12B; C] **** (Mkhize's Buttress) 56
Sky Walker (17) **** (Power Wall) 117
A Tribute to 15 Sundays (17) [10B; C] *** (Upper WW) 150
Anonymous (17) *** (Power Wall) 111
Aqua–Trad (17) *** (Friction Wall) 89
Bit On The Side (17) [6B; C] + [3B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 79
Cally's Line (17) [6B; C] *** (Upper Warrior Wall) 143
Cheshire Cat (17) [5B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 83
Cobra (17) *** (Gully Wall) 137

Fanagalo (17) *** (Promised Land) 72
First Time, The (17) *** (Mkhize's Buttress) 58
Haasie (17) [4B; C] *** (Promised Land) 72
Half Man, Half Biscuit (16, 17) *** (Power Wall) 110
Old Bullets (17) [4B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 157
R34, The (17) [9B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 84
Savate (17) [8B; C] *** (Buffalo Face) 53
Saving The Colours (17) [4B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 156
Splash (17) *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 155
Thin White Line (17) [9B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 81
Think Of The Glory (17) *** (Friction Wall) 75
Victim Of Fate (17) [12B; C] *** (Mkhize's Buttress) 56
Encourager, The (17) ** (Red Wall) 55
Hand Break Problem (17) ** (Red Wall) 55
Rorke's Drift (17) [3B; C] ** (Lower Warrior Wall) 156
Sand Jam (17) ** (Upper Warrior Wall) 141
With Jammin' (17) ** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 97

**16**

Ali's Line (16) [7B; C] ***** (Friction Wall) 85
Bird Child (16) [7B; C] **** (Upper Warrior Wall) 147
Dingiswayo (16) [11B; C] **** (Upper Warrior Wall) 150
Crackerjack (16) [C] **** (Power Wall) 112
Going On Seventeen (16) [5B; C] **** (Bushy Buttress, L) 99
Sands Of Time (16) [C] **** (Upper Warrior Wall) 143
Tata Ma Millions (16) **** (Bits And Pieces Wall) 67

Venom (16) [C] **** (Gully Wall) 137
White Flag (16) [9B; C] **** (Buffalo Face) 53
Alley Cat (16) *** (Power Wall) 127
Arachnid Left Break (16) *** (Upper Warrior Wall) 146
Boomslang (16/18) *** (Gully Wall) 138
Butterfly (16) *** (Bits And Pieces Wall) 65
Cleavage (16) *** (Promised Land) 73
Cul-de-Sac (16) *** (Power Wall) 112
Die By The Sword (16) *** (Buffalo Face) 54
Dying Flutter (16) [5B; C] *** (Promised Land) 71
Expectations (16) *** (Mkhize's Buttress) 58
Gogo (16) [6B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 162
Half Man, Half Biscuit (16, 17) *** (Power Wall) 110
Inkosi (16) [5B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 158
Lazy Ike (16) [4B; C] *** (Promised Land) 71
Life In The Old Dog (16) [6B; C] *** (Lower Warrior W) 162
Live By The Sword (16) *** (Buffalo Face) 54
Mandela's Choice (16) *** (Upper Warrior Wall) 146
Mr Wolf (16) [6B; C] *** (Promised Land) 69
Old Times Again (16) *** (Bits And Pieces Wall) 65
Right Of Way (16) *** (Power Wall) 114
Senzangakhona's Sin (16) *** (Upper Warrior Wall) 150
Sky Light (16) *** (Power Wall) 117
Sweet Sixteen (16, 16) *** (Bits And Pieces Wall) 67
Fine Line, A (16) ** (Power Wall) 114

Flaming Haggis (16) ** (Upper Warrior Wall) 147
Monkey People (16) ** (Power Wall) 118
What's In It For Me? (16/19) ** (Friction Wall) 75

**15**

Rattlesnake Shake (15) **** (Gully Wall) 132
Hedge Hopper (15) [8B; C] **** (Primeval Wall) 128
A Bit On The Side (15) [6B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 79
Anaconda (15) [C] *** (Power Wall) 109
Arachnid (15) *** (Upper Warrior Wall) 147
Bats In My Belfry (15) *** (Power Wall) 120
Bee In The Bonnet (15) *** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 99
Belly Dancer (15) [6B; C] *** (Primeval Wall) 129
BMC Diagonal (14, 15) *** (Bits And Pieces Wall) 66
Borrowdale Gardener's Delight (15) *** (Friction Wall) 84
Colour Contrast (15) *** (Power Wall) 116
Curvy Cat (15) [5B; C] *** (Cinderella Slabs) 60
Dad's Army (15) [4B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 158
Encouraging Debait (15) *** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 100
First Time Lucky Direct (15) [6B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 89
Get Cracking (15) *** (Power Wall) 114
Oink (15) [3B; C] *** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 98
Once-ler (15) *** (Power Wall) 116
Rock Around The Block (15) *** (Power Wall) 116
Sexy Sardine (15) *** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 93
Skabenga (15) [5B, C] *** (Power Wall) 112

Way To Go (15) *** (Power Wall) 114

**14**

Red River Rock (14) [8B; C] **** (Lower Warrior Wall) 161

Stepladder (14) **** (Friction Wall) 75

Tokoloshe (14) [9B; C] **** (Gully Wall) 132

A (14) [6B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 158

Bavarian Kings (14) *** (Friction Wall) 85

BMC Diagonal (14, 15) *** (Bits And Pieces Wall) 66

Chicken Wing (14) [5B; C] *** (Promised Land) 68

Crocodile Rock (14) [4B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 89

Fig Jam (14) [8B; C] *** (Primeval Wall) 130

Freckles (14) [4B; C] *** (Promised Land) 69

Going Home (14) [C] *** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 93

Hmmm (14) *** (Gully Wall) 136

Impi (14) [5B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 161

Ingram's Technique (14) *** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 100

Jungle Jane (14) [C] *** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 95

Magic Mushroom (14/18) [6B; C] *** (Bushy Buttress) 94

Pylon (14) [C] *** (Power Wall) 119

Scorpion (14) *** (Upper Warrior Wall) 147

Snow White (14/18) [5B; C] *** (Bushy Buttress, Lower) 98

Usuthu (14) [7B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 161

Adios Amigo (14) [3B; C] ** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 102

Barking Mad (14) ** (Power Wall) 118

Insertion (14) [3B, C] ** 118

KYAG (14) ** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 97
Nameless (14) ** (Power Wall) 112
Scale (14) [C] ** (Gully Wall) 139
Spit (14) [4B; C] ** (Upper Warrior Wall) 144
Zig Zag (14) ** (Friction Wall) 89

**13**

Harry (13) [6B; C] **** (Power Wall) 109
LUCA (13) [10B; C] **** (Primeval Wall) 130
Mamba (13) [C] **** (Gully Wall) 136
Climbing Rocks (13) [9B; C] *** (Primeval Wall) 130
Follow Me (13) [5B; C] *** (Cinderella Slabs) 59
Happy (13) [4B; C] *** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 98
LBJ (13) [3B; C] *** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 95
Mad Hatter (13) [6B; C] *** (Friction Wall) 83
Mango Groove (13) [4B; C] *** (Cinderella Slabs) 61
Pedling Our Wares (13) *** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 100
Promised Land (13) [2B; trad; C] *** (Promised Land) 71
Rocky Raccoon (13) [6B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 155
Songololo (13) [6B; C] *** (Cinderella Slabs) 61
Three Dog Night (13) [6B; C] *** (Cinderella Slabs) 61
Uncle Kracker (13) [4B; C] *** (Cinderella Slabs) 59
Vanity Fair (13) [6B; C] *** (Cinderella Slabs) 61
Wonder Bra (13) [3B; C] *** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 95
Abdominal Noman (13) [3B; C] ** (Bushy Buttress, L) 101
Bolty And Drilly Do Trad (13) ** (Bushy Buttress, Lower) 100

Caroline The Snake (13) ** (Red Wall) 55
Porcupine Pie (13) ** (Power Wall) 107
Yeti (13) [3B; C] ** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 101
One And A Half (13) [3B; C] * (Gulley Wall) 139

**12**

B (12) [5B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 159
Easy Way Out, The (12) *** (Power Wall) 114
Little Honda (12) [4B; C] *** (Bushy Buttress, Lower) 101
Mpande (12) [3B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 157
Porcelain Ridge (12) *** (Power Wall) 108
Cats (12) [3B; C] ** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 95
Flaky (12) [2B; C] ** (Gully Wall) 138
Four (12) [3B; C] ** (Gully Wall) 139
Induna (12) [3B; C] ** (Lower Warrior Wall) 156
Solitaire (12) ** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 101
Winding Down (12) ** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 93

**11**

Dick (11) [5B; C] **** (Power Wall) 109
Easy Access (11) [C] **** (Power Wall) 118
Bog Rat (11) [4B; C] *** (Primeval Wall) 130
Constant Affirmation (11) [6B; C] *** (Cinderella Slabs) 61
Eight (11) [4B; C] *** (Gully Wall) 138
Jitterbug (11) [4B; C] *** (Promised Land) 73
Left Fork (11) *** (Gully Wall) 136
Sidewinder (11) [3B; C] *** (Gully Wall) 139

Sonic Hedgehog (11) [C] *** (Power Wall) 107
Ant Line (11) ** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 99
Deadly Goldfish (11) ** (Upper Warrior Wall) 147
Guppy (11) [4B; C] ** (Upper Warrior Wall) 148
Spot (11) [4B; C] ** (Upper Warrior Wall) 144
Step-Up (11) ** (Power Wall) 119

**10**

Just The Biscuit (10) **** (Power Wall) 108
Adder (10) [C] *** (Gully Wall) 138
Bats (10) [5B; C] *** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 93
Right Fork (10) *** (Gully Wall) 136
Bra (10) ** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 97
Gauteng-a-leng (10) ** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 93
Step-Down (10) ** (Power Wall) 119
Three Little Pigs (9, 10, 9) ** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 97
Tom (10) ** (Power Wall) 109
One (10) [3B; C] * (Gully Wall) 139
Short Circuit (10) * (Power Wall) 119
Dopey (10) (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 98

**09**

Toy Soldier (09) [5B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 155
All Aboard (09) [2B; C] ** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 102
Carry On Climbing (09) ** (Power Wall) 108
Jigsaw (09) ** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 96
Rats (09) ** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 95

Three Little Pigs (9, 10, 9) ** (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 97
Bashful (09) * (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 99
Début (09) * (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 102
Doc (09) * (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 99
Route With A View (09) * (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 102
Shoehorn (09) * (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 101
Sleepy (09) * (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 99
Sneezy (09) * (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 99

**08**

Access Scramble (08) *** [C] (Lower Warrior Wall) 156
Woodpecker (08) [6B; C] *** (Lower Warrior Wall) 156
Aardvark (08) [2B; C] ** (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 102
Akkedis (08) * (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 101
Arb (08) * (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 96
Four And A Half (08) [C] * (Gully Wall) 139
Grumpy (08) * (Bushy Buttress, Lower Tier) 98
Rab (08) * (Bushy Buttress, Upper Tier) 96
Taylor's Halt (08) * (Upper Warrior Wall) 148